



STELLA KYRIAKIDES
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels – Berl 10/380

Brussels, 14 April 2021

Dear representatives of ALDI Nord,
Dear representatives of Barilla,
Dear representatives of Fattoria Roberti,
Dear representatives of Ferrero,
Dear representatives of Inter IKEA Group,
Dear representatives of Jamie Oliver Group,
Dear representatives of Le Groupement Les Mousquetaires,
Dear representatives of Mondelēz International,
Dear representatives of Nestlé,
Dear representatives of Unilever,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 17 March 2021 that was also addressed to Vice-President Timmermans, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Wojciechowski. I am replying also on their behalf.

We sincerely welcome your support for the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age' and the clear commitment expressed in your letter to help phasing out the use of cages, starting with caged hens.

The expertise and collaboration of your sector is a crucial aspect in supporting the transition to cage-free farming in the European Union. We therefore warmly thank you for your readiness and willingness to help reform the food industry, to share your expertise and to collaborate with the aim to achieve the goals of phasing out cages for certain species of animals.

Representatives of ALDI Nord, Barilla, Fattoria Roberti, Ferrero, Inter IKEA Group, Jamie Oliver Group, Le Groupement Les Mousquetaires, Mondelēz International, Nestlé, Unilever

The European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age', submitted to the Commission on 2 October 2020, is now under evaluation. The Commission will adopt a communication outlining the actions it intends to take in response to this initiative in early summer 2021.

As you may be aware, the European Commission committed under the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy to revise the EU animal welfare legislation with a view to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare. The Commission will also consider options for animal welfare labelling to better transmit value through the food chain. Close cooperation with the food sector is indeed a major element in making these initiatives a success: for the agri-food-business – from farmers to manufacturers, retailers and food service providers up to consumers – and for the welfare of the animals concerned.

In the framework of the activities to revise the current legislation, further public consultations will be organised in the next years and I would appreciate receiving your contributions in this framework. Finally, I would also like to thank all other businesses referred to in your letter and operators that already eliminated cages or products obtained from caged animals or that have pledged to do so.

I appreciate your commitment to support farmers in the transition to cage-free farming and I am looking forward to your further important input.

Yours sincerely,

