



Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

23. april 2012
9.1.49

Re.: Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and animal welfare

Dear Mette Gjerskov,

At the next meeting of the Agriculture Council on 26 April, the Council will have a debate on the Commission proposal on direct payments, and more specifically on the issues of small farmers, and voluntary coupled support, among other related topics. In that context The Danish Animal Welfare Society would like to ask you to take into account the need to pay full regard to the welfare of animals, in line with Article 13 of the Treaty.

More specifically, we believe that subsidies should only be given to farmers who fully respect EU minimum legal standards and thus that all farmers, including small farmers, should be subjected to cross-compliance with EU animal welfare standards. To reduce administrative burden and the number of controls necessary, we propose that penalties be set at level high enough to be dissuasive.

In addition, we urge you to support the possibility for member states to grant direct support to farmers who engage in implementing higher animal welfare standards, by allowing coupled support also for farmers practicing enhanced animal welfare standards under article 38 of the Commission proposal on direct payments (COM(2011)625). Another possibility would be to add to the text of the proposal an article similar to article 68 of the current Direct Payments Regulation, allowing special support to certain types of farming, including high animal welfare types of production. We also believe that there should be no limit on the number of farmers receiving coupled support for applying higher animal welfare standards as there is growing market demand for high welfare products, but farmers are currently not getting enough return through the food chain to be compensated for the extra costs of significantly higher standards.

We thank you in advance for taking these elements into account during the debate in the Council.

Yours sincerely,

Britta Riis, Director
Danish Animal Welfare Society
Dyrenes Beskyttelse



Cc: Members of the Food Committee of the Danish Parliament (Folketingets Fødevareudvalg)