

Horst Seehofer  
Minister for Food and Agriculture  
Bundesministerium für Ernährung,  
Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz  
Wilhelmstrasse 54  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

Dear Minister

**EU prohibition on battery cages for laying hens**

As you know, the EU ban on conventional battery cages for laying hens is due to come into force on 1 January 2012.

As Germany's own national ban comes into force earlier than the EU ban, in 2009, I have presumed that Germany would not want the EU ban to be postponed. However, it has recently been suggested to me that Germany may be willing to support a postponement of the EU ban.

[Name of your organisation] respectfully urges Germany not to support a postponement of the EU ban, but instead to insist that the ban must come into force in 2012, the date set by the EU Laying Hens Directive.

All the other northern EU Member States have stressed that they do not wish the ban to be postponed. It would be very disappointing if Germany were to take a different position by supporting a postponement.

The European Commission has already made it clear that they do not intend to propose a postponement in their report which is likely to be published in December.

We urge Germany to make it clear that it believes that the EU ban on battery cages should come into force in 2012 with no postponement.

Yours sincerely