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Please reply to:

25 November 2013

José Manuel Barroso
President
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

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Your ref: Ref. Ares(2013)3478767 - 14/11/2013

BARROSO (2013) 3372321
BARROSO (2013)

Dear President

Regular long-term breaches of Directive on protection of pigs: your reply of 14 November 2013

We write in response to the reply of 14 November from your Office to our letter of 24 October 2013.

Our letter included strong evidence of widespread breaches of important provisions of Council Directive 2008/120 on the protection of pigs and failure by many Member States to enforce this legislation together with failure by the Commission to secure effective enforcement by the Member States. These breaches have been continuing for ten years; Council Directive 2008/120 codifies earlier legislation.

The reply from your Office merely states that “Mr Barroso received this letter with interest and has taken note of its contents”.

It may not have been your intention, but this reply suggests a degree of contempt for those many EU citizens who are concerned about animal welfare, the requirements of the Treaty in this area and also for the rule of law.

Eurobarometer studies show that many EU citizens care about animal welfare. For example, a Eurobarometer study on attitudes to animal welfare reports that, on a scale of 1 to 10, EU citizens give animal welfare an importance rating of 7.8.¹ When five leading animal welfare organisations write to you, on behalf of those EU citizens who are concerned about welfare, drawing your attention to serious breaches of EU legislation in this area, they deserve a reasonably full and considered response.

Article 13 TFEU requires the EU in implementing its policies on, *inter alia*, agriculture to “pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals”. As guardian of the Treaties, the Commission is obliged to itself take the Treaties’ provisions seriously. However, the reply

¹ Attitudes of EU citizens towards animal welfare. Eurobarometer. March 2007.

from your Office does not respect the Commission's obligation under Article 13 to strive to ensure proper implementation of EU legislation on the protection of farm animals.

The EU is a society that is governed by the rule of law. Indeed Article 2 TEU provides that the Union is founded on the values of respect for, *inter alia*, the rule of law. Our letter drew your attention to law breaking on a massive scale and yet the reply from your Office completely ignores this point. It is crucial for the EU institutions to give a high priority to enforcement of legislation.

Article 4.3 TEU is also pertinent in calling for sincere cooperation between the Union and the Member States.

We would be grateful if you would now let us have a substantive reply to our letter of 24 October 2013 and in particular let us know how you plan to address the problem of poor enforcement by many Member States of the provisions of Council Directive 2008/120 that are referred to in our letter of 24 October.

We would also be grateful for a meeting with your Cabinet to discuss how progress can be made on this issue.

Yours sincerely



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