



Membre d'honneur
le Dalai-Lama

Paris, February 23rd, 2016

Ministry of Agriculture
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

On January 1st 2007, Croatia passed a praiseworthy law regulation – ban on raising animals for production of fur with a 10 year transitional period. The law was second by the Government, all political parties, MP's and more than 70 percent of the citizens. We are appalled to hear that the ban is currently being threatened by new amendments to the Animal Protection Act which aim to exclude chinchillas from the ban.

We believe this amendment would be counterproductive and not show a positive image of Croatian legislature, especially because of the fact that the transitional period should end in less than a year (January 2017 to be exact). The fact is that breeders had a big time frame to switch to another type of business, so changing the law because of an insignificant number of individuals who decided to disregard the ban cannot be a valid or significant factor in this decision, especially when having in mind the fact that the number of chinchilla breeders is five times lower than in the time of the ban.

If chinchillas get excluded from the ban, Croatia will be the only country in the region that allows animals being bread and murdered for fur.

Please keep the ban on fur farming along with UK, Austria, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and other countries. Numerous associations including Fondation Brigitte Bardot are intensively working on such a ban in France, and countries like yours should remain a wonderful example to take.

According to all of the recent researches it is impossible to achieve welfare in breeding of animals for fur, especially in breeding of chinchillas. Aside from the fact that fur is a direct violation of Animal Welfare Act, fur industry is also a great ecological issue.

Accordingly, we do not welcome or support intentions of making an exception in the legislative which would allow chinchillas to be excluded from the ban on breeding animals for fur. Fur doesn't only represent a completely unnecessary luxury, but a menace to ecology and overall reputation of all the countries legitimizing it.

We believe that you will protect Animal Protection Act from downgrading and keep working on its improvement, thus achieving a higher level of animal protection.

Sincerely yours,

Christophe Marie
Animal Protection Office Director

FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT

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