



Eyes on  
Animals | Watching  
out for their  
welfare

Dear officials of the European Union,

February 22, 2011

**I am writing to ask that the EU take action immediately to assist the government of South Korea in making their cullings *humane*. The EU must coordinate sending out experts now to lend their expertise in the field.**

In late November 2010, South Korea announced that it had Foot and Mouth disease. Shortly thereafter the local authorities began culling millions of animals from the regions touched by the disease.

It was not yet clear how the culling were being done, but various sources indicated that Succinyl choline and pentobarbital were to be used. Succinyl choline only sedates the muscles but the animal is fully conscious and aware of its surroundings. The animal ends up suffocating because it cannot move. This drug is completely unacceptable and cruel to perform euthanasia with. Pentobarbital is risky, because if administered incorrectly the animal can regain consciousness.

Shockingly, in early January Eyes on Animals received photos and video footage from the Korea Animal Rights Advocates (KARA) showing fully-conscious pigs being dumped alive into massive grave-pits.

Animal welfare organizations around the world were horrified and members sent letters to their local South Korean Embassies. Officials in Europe as well as the OIE (of which South Korea is a member) were made aware of this animal-welfare atrocity occurring in South Korea.

Now, almost two months later the live burials continue. Just yesterday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the South Korean press released the following photos taken of a culling in Icheon of the Kyungi Province. Why is this allowed to continue and why does it seem that we are just passively watching this cruelty? If the EU is as serious about animal-welfare as we like to appear then why has effective action not yet been taken ?

During the disease outbreaks in Europe in the late 90's, international coordination efforts were made so that veterinarian experts from other continents could assist in the field. South Korea also needs more man-power from foreign experts with experience in handling these tragedies in a *humane* manner; animals must at least be rendered dead before burial.

South-Korea is an important economic trading partner with the EU. Coordination between the two players thus should also be possible when it comes to disease outbreaks. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding the EU's plans of action to effectively reduce the suffering of animals now.

Lesley Moffat, director

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Place: Icheon, Kyungi Province

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**One of the earlier cullings taken almost 2 months ago.**

