

10 February 2009

The Hon Simon Crean MP
Minister for Trade
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By Facsimile (02) 6273 4128

Dear Minister,

Re: Australia-Indonesia FTA - Feasibility

In December 2008, Compassion in World Farming wrote to express interest in participating in the negotiations towards a possible Australia/ROK FTA, in the interests of animal welfare. As we believe you would agree, most Australian citizens believe that animals deserve respect and that we should do all in our power to ensure the best possible treatment of animals farmed for food production.

We welcomed your positive response to our communication.

In the meantime we have noted consideration of an Australia/Indonesia FTA Feasibility Study and are similarly prepared for involvement in this initial stage of a bilateral FTA.

As explained in our earlier correspondence, Compassion in World Farming believes that this is a very important opportunity to further farm animal welfare, through the establishment of specific co-operation among veterinary authorities and trade opportunities for higher-welfare products.

The Agreement will include an SPS chapter, whose veterinary part can contain references not only to animal health, but also be extended to cover animal welfare. This has already occurred, with the EU-Chile Agreement in 2002 and the integration of EU-Canada in 2004. As with Australia/ROK, we would welcome the opportunity to provide suggestions for this in relation to the Australia/Indonesia FTA.

The inclusion of this reference in a Trade Agreement between developing and industrialised countries has already led to increased co-operation, particularly in the case of EU-Chile, initially with training and capacity building on the important issue of farm animal stunning and slaughter.