



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Paul Carlisle
Clerk to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Jim Nicholson MEP
European Parliament
Bat. Paul-Henri Spaak
08B009
60 rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Brussels

17 October 2008

Dear Mr Nicholson

The Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has asked that I copy you the attached correspondence and have stated they would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Paul Carlisle
Clerk to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development



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Clerk to the Committee for
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Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Jim Allister MEP
139 Holywood Road
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT4 3BE

17 October 2008

Dear Mr Allister

The Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has asked that I copy you the attached correspondence and have stated they would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Paul Carlisle
Clerk to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development



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Bairbre de Brún MEP
53 Falls Road
Belfast
BT12 4PD

17 October 2008

Dear Mrs de Brún

The Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has asked that I copy you the attached correspondence and have stated they would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Paul Carlisle'.

Paul Carlisle
Clerk to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Dr William McCrea MP MLA
Chairperson, Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Signor Gabriele Papadia de Bottini
The Italian Consul General for Scotland and
Northern Ireland
32 Melville Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7HA

16 October 2008

Dear Signor Consul General

I am writing to you as Chairperson to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development, a statutory committee in the Northern Ireland Assembly, to seek your intervention in a matter that has recently been brought to my Committee's attention.

Northern Ireland farmers have, until recently, enjoyed a small but very valuable relationship with Italian regional authorities in the export of calves for the veal market. Unfortunately, these authorities appear now to have ceased the import of this high quality produce due to a number of animals, exported from Gloucestershire in England, testing positively for Tuberculosis (TB) in Holland. The Regional Authorities in Italy are, understandably, concerned about the spread of TB and have applied a ban on imports of calves from the United Kingdom which, obviously, includes Northern Ireland.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland and the Ulster Farmers Union has provided the Committee with evidence that the Northern Ireland bovine TB programme has sustained a steady decrease in TB incidence levels since 2002, in contrast to the remainder of the United Kingdom. In addition, the frequency of testing, particularly for animals being exported, is carried out at a higher level and consistently provides assurances under trade directive EC 64/432. All calves being exported must be assigned an Officially TB Free status and are fully traceable through an EU approved real time data base. It is, therefore, concerning to this Committee and to the industry that, given the tight controls exercised by our industry in respect of this quality produce, these bans have been introduced. It is all

the more concerning that counterparts in the Republic of Ireland, a neighbouring Member State, continue to enjoy a fruitful relationship with your regional authorities.

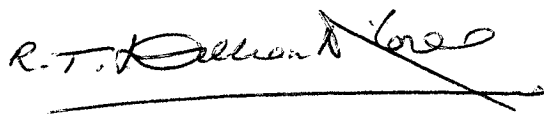
I would ask, therefore, that you intervene on our behalf. The Committee is assured that there is a high demand for this quality produce within Italian regions. It is, therefore, of great importance that all our respective interests' benefit, your compatriots through enjoying quality Northern Ireland produce and our industry through the continuing development of markets for that produce.

On behalf of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development, I am happy to offer what further assistance you might require in respect of this matter and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future

I am copying this letter to the Northern Ireland Members of the European Parliament for information.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. T. O'Brien' with a large flourish at the end. A horizontal line is drawn across the signature.

Dr William McCrea MP MLA
Chairperson to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development

Cc: Deputy Chairperson
Committee Members
Mr Jim Allister MEP
Mrs Bairbre de Brun MEP
Mr James Nicholson MEP