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My ref: *EDD*

Your ref: *1910*

16 May 1986

Mr Michael

WELFARE OF BATTERY HENS - PROPOSED CHALLENGE TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
86/113/EEC

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 2 May to Geoffrey Howe. *at 11am.*

I fully support your proposal that the UK should institute proceedings before the European Court in respect of the Battery Hen Cages Directive. The case will be a useful complement to the challenge to the Hormones Directive which is already under way.

The Principle at issue in these two cases is of course more than passing interest to my Department. We anticipate that when the Single European Act is in force, the Commission will seek to base what are essentially environmental proposals on Article 100A with its provisions for qualified majority voting, despite the presence in the SEA of a special environmental chapter based on unanimity. Success for the UK on the battery hens and hormones cases would, I believe, help us greatly in forthcoming battles with the Commission over Article 100A.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to the other colleagues who received yours.

Kenneth Baker
KENNETH BAKER

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP

HOMSAFFAIRS

Animal Welfare 6/79

