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Ms. Stella Kyriakides

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Dear Ms. Stella Kyriakides,

As a Polish Professor involved in the management of wild animal species for 40 years and the President of the European Bison Friends Society, please allow me to express my deep appreciation for the ongoing efforts undertaken in the animal welfare laws and protection against transmittable animal diseases.

At the same time it is important to stress how health conservation of native species may vary, requiring different priorities and actions.

An example of such a species is the European bison *Bison bonasus*. The European bison population in Poland is the largest worldwide (above 25%) and every second wisent in the European Union lives in Poland. As a country we have great influence upon European bison protection and many animals from Poland are exported to many countries not only in Europe.

For this reason, I would like to express my position referring to the European bison issue in relation to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health.

I am sending position of EBFS as an attachment to this letter. I would like to ask for your attention to very important problem for future of this charismatic European species.

Reiterating my full support to the efforts in the area of animal health and welfare I remain open to further exchange with you on this important topic.

With best regards,

Wanda Olech-Piasecka

To information:

Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius (Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety)