



24 August 2010

**Minister of Agriculture (Fødevareminister Henrik Høegh)
Members of Food Committee of Danish Parliament (Folketingets Fødevareudvalg)**

Ref: Cloning of Animals for Food

Dear all,

Following recent evidence from the UK that milk and meat products from cloned animals and their offspring have already entered the food chain and EU citizens have shown concerns that the food they eat is not properly controlled, safe and produced in an ethical way.

The Danish Animal Welfare Society welcomed the Parliament's call for a ban on the sale of food products from cloned animals and their offspring in a resolution in 2008 and in the context of the Novel Food Regulation in July MEPs made clear that they want products from cloned animals and their offspring not to be regulated by this legislation, but that they want a specific Commission proposal to prohibit cloning of animals for food and the import of such products.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again voice our concerns about this unnecessary animal production method and urge you to support a ban on cloning of animals for food production and on the import of products from cloned animals and their offspring.

We and the citizens we represent believe that the cloning of animals for food production is totally unacceptable and unnecessary and could lead to further industrialisation of livestock production with the related animal health and welfare problems.

During the discussions on the proposal for a Regulation on Novel Foods, we ask Member States to consider all aspects and stages of the cloning process. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in their opinion stated that animals cloned for food purposes and their milk were safe for consumption, however, we call on you to also consider the health and welfare of animals and ethical concerns associated throughout the cloning process. The reports by EFSA also confirmed that animals suffer as a result of this technique while emphasizing there are still too many uncertainties about the technology. In addition, Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes provides that 'natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause or are likely to cause suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned must not be practised' (Annex, paragraph 20). Finally, there is strong opposition to this technique from a majority of citizens and consumers, as indicated in the Eurobarometer of 2008.

We urge you to support a ban on cloning of animals for food production and on the import of cloned animals and products from cloned animals and their offspring.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Britta Riis, Director,
Danish Animal Welfare Society (Dyrenes Beskyttelse),
Member of Eurogroup for Animals