



Minister of Agriculture (Fødevareminister Henrik Høegh)
Food Committee of Danish Parliament (Fødevareudvalget)

15 November 2010
7.3.3.1.1

Ref: Cloning of Animals for Food Production

With reference to the Commission report on cloning of animals for food published on 19 October 2010, the Danish Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) calls on your support for EU legislation that bans the cloning of animals and their offspring for food production.

The Commission report calls for a ban on animal cloning in the EU and the import of products from cloned animals, however, DAWS and Eurogroup for Animals are very concerned because the Commission has indicated that such a ban would not include products from the offspring of cloned animals, nor the import of semen and embryos.

A ban on cloning and on the import of products from clones will stop cloning of animals in the EU but not elsewhere. Semen and embryos from these clones will still reach the EU, and products from offspring of cloned animals will be sold on the EU market, either from imports or from offspring derived from imported semen and embryo, going against the views of consumers. EU should be consistent and treat imported and domestic products identically.

The Commission is claiming that it is impossible to impose traceability on countries exporting to the EU. However, traceability for food products is already in place for health and food safety reasons (Art 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 for food and food animals, and Directive 88/407/EEC for semen and embryos) and it is only a question of refining it and making sure that reproductive methods are included among traceability data. It is in our view rather a question of political willingness.

Consumers and citizens have clearly expressed their opposition to products from cloned animals and their offspring, and the Commission report thus falls short of respecting EU citizens' calls for a full ban.

DAWS urges all members of the Danish Parliament involved in political discussions to call for a full ban on placing products on the market from cloned animals and their offspring in the framework of the novel food dossier.

We are very concerned that without any pressure from the negotiations for the revised Novel Food Regulation, the Commission will in future be unwilling to regulate the issue of cloning for food.

We look forward to hear your view on cloning of animals for food production in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a smaller 'i' and a final flourish.

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