



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

PRESS RELEASE

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Commission seeks to impose food from cloned animals' offspring

"Consumers must be able to know and choose what they eat" says BEUC

"It is unacceptable that the EU will have to allow milk or meat from the offspring of cloned animals without any labeling just because the US and other exporting countries have no traceability system in place", declared Monique Goyens, BEUC Director General, reacting to the threat of a 'trade war' as described by Commissioner De Gucht¹ to Members of the European Parliament yesterday.

"Legislators should not use commercial arguments to endanger the choice of EU consumers. They did not give in to big business on hormone-treated beef EU imports and we need to see the same determination repeated", added Goyens.

An overwhelming majority of EU consumers do not want cloning to be used for food production purposes: 84%² are concerned about the long-term health and safety effects, and yet the Commission persists in ignoring the very people they are supposed to represent.

In addition, contrary to what the Commissioner argued, EFSA has stated that uncertainties remain and not all issues have been "satisfactorily addressed"³.

"Only fifteen days remain for the European Parliament and Council of Ministers to agree rules allowing clear labeling of products from offspring of cloned animals. The Commission should no longer interfere in the talks and stop putting market interests before that of consumers."

ENDS

¹ Speaking notes of the Commissioner will be provided on request to press@beuc.eu

² Flash Eurobarometer 238, October 2008

³ EFSA Journal (2008) 767, 1-49

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