



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE  
PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:** Ophélie Spanneut - +32 (0)2 789 24 01  
**Date:** 01/02/2011  
**Reference:** PR 2011/003

### **Negotiations on Novel Food: Will food from cloned animals end up in our plates?**

MEPs and Ministers meet this evening to find an agreement in the last stage of the Novel Food regulation and particularly on the remaining sticking point of food derived from cloning. BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, once again, highlights some facts on the cloning issue:

An overwhelming majority of EU consumers do not want cloning to be used for food production purposes: 84%<sup>1</sup> are concerned about the long-term health and safety effects.

Also, given the lack of traceability and labelling, consumers have no means of knowing if their meat or milk has been produced from clones or not.

Furthermore, EFSA<sup>2</sup> itself has recognized that scientific uncertainties remain when they stated that all the issues were not "satisfactorily addressed".

BEUC therefore calls on the negotiators to extend the Commission's proposal<sup>3</sup> of a 5-year suspension on the marketing and import of food from clones to the offspring and the reproductive materials (semen and embryos), at least until knowledge gaps have been addressed and consumer choice is ensured.

Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, declared:

"Surveys clearly show us that consumers don't want food from clones or their offspring. It brings zero benefits to them and they have no means of distinguishing it from conventional food. Even worse, milk or meat derived from descendants of cloned animals could lawfully be sold today in the EU bearing the 'organic' label, thus misleading buyers and ruining consumers' confidence in the organic label.

"Cloned animals are not meant to be cut into slices, they are worth too much. Only suspending food derived from cloned animals while at the same time allowing the use of offspring is therefore pointless and legitimises cloning for food purpose business."

ENDS

---


<sup>1</sup> Flash Eurobarometer 238, October 2008

<sup>2</sup> EFSA Journal (2008) 767, 1-49

<sup>3</sup> Report on animal cloning for food production - [COM 2010/585](#)

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation  
+32 2 789 24 01 - [press@beuc.eu](mailto:press@beuc.eu)

**Want to know more about BEUC? Visit [www.beuc.eu](http://www.beuc.eu)**

 **EC register for interest representatives: identification number 9505781573-45** 