



The European Consumers' Organisation

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE
PRESS RELEASE

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Food derived from cloning: don't ignore consumers' right to know

With the final stage of negotiations on the Novel Food regulation now underway, the clock is ticking for MEPs and Ministers to reach an agreement on the issue of food derived from cloning before 30th March.

BEUC urges Ministers to act responsibly.

"Surveys¹ clearly show that an overwhelming majority of EU consumers do not want cloning to be used for food production purposes. We call on legislators to remember this and act in consumers' interest when finding an agreement on this regulation" commented Monique Goyens, Director General of BEUC, the European Consumers Organisation.

But cloning is not the only issue at stake. If negotiations fail next week, this would mean that the positive provisions already achieved in the proposed legislation, for example improved authorization procedures for foodstuffs from third countries or a definition of nanotechnology would be lost. It would send a wrong signal to consumers to see policy makers unable to agree on a high level of protection of health.

Traceability and labelling pre-requisites

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation insists that minimum requirements for consumers are traceability and labelling of offspring of cloned animals and of the reproductive materials (semen and embryos of clones).

"Consumers should be able to know and choose the meat they eat and the milk they drink. We are bewildered that this fact is not more obvious for some Member States."

ENDS

¹ Flash Eurobarometer 238, October 2008

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