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European Parliament gives clear 'no' to food from cloned animals

At today's plenary session, MEPs voted to ban cloning for food supply in the EU as well as to prohibit imports of animal clones and their descendants, reproductive material from clones and their descendants, and food derived from these animals. With this vote, the European Parliament clearly rejects food from cloned animals and shows its support to consumers in Europe who overwhelmingly disapprove of this practice.

Cloning is used for food production by several of the EU's main trading partners, including the US. For this reason MEPs suggest establishing an import certification system to enforce the cloning ban.

Monique Goyens, Director General of The European Consumer Organisation, commented:

"We are delighted that the European Parliament has listened to consumers' concerns about cloning.

"MEPs have fixed the flaws in the inadequate draft law, which failed to ban the import of clones' descendants or food deriving from these animals. Banning food from clones whilst allowing food from their descendants to reach consumers' plates would be fooling the 70% of Europeans who discourage cloning for food supply.

"It is heartening that MEPs were unimpressed by threats of a trade war if the EU were to pass strong laws on cloning. While abiding by its trade obligations, the EU must remain free to adopt regulations that meet its citizens' expectations.

"We now look to the Commission and Member States to likewise pay heed to EU consumers' concerns about cloning."

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