



The Bavarian State Minister of the
Environment and Consumer Protection

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His Excellency
Vytenis Andriukaitis
Member of the European Commission
Commissioner for Health
and Food Safety
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

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Your appointment as European Commissioner

Dear Commissioner,

May I begin by congratulating you warmly on your new position as Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, a key portfolio for the citizens of the European Union, to whom a safe food supply is of utmost importance.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a matter of particular importance to the State of Bavaria. Our state has long demanded a ban on cloning animals in food production which also extends to the progeny of cloned animals: no 'copy and paste' in livestock breeding. The way food-stuffs are produced is as much a matter of ethics as of food safety, and cloning animals for commercial purposes is ethically indefensible. Not only does cloning bring with it considerable animal protection issues such as health problems for the mother animals, low life expectancy, and frequent miscarriages, but large swathes of the population are against the practice.

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Technological feasibility alone is not sufficient justification for cloning. Due to our State's deep feelings of responsibility to God's creation, Bavaria strictly rejects this practice. It is therefore our opinion that the scope of the draft directives on animal cloning presented by the Commission last year must be broadened: in agriculture, the current drafts include nothing more than a temporary ban on animal cloning, circulating cloned animals and their embryos, and distributing foodstuffs made from cloned animals. Furthermore, a range of exceptions is included regarding cloning for agricultural purposes, and this is simply not enough in view of justified consumer concerns and in the interest of the animals. For this reason, I would request that the Commission position itself clearly in favour of a permanent and comprehensive ban on animal cloning – including cloned descendants – in the course of further negotiations on the proposed directives.

Bavaria is of the same opinion on permits for genetically-modified plants. It is of the utmost importance to me in the interests of the citizens to prevent the cultivation of genetically-modified organisms in Bavaria. An overwhelming majority of the population is against genetically-modified crops, and green genetic engineering in agriculture cannot be reconciled with Bavaria's vulnerable natural spaces and small-scale farming structures. This is why Bavaria supports the suggestion produced by the Commission for a right for each member state to develop its own policy on the cultivation of genetically modified crops. I would like to request a clear and consistent position from the Commission during the negotiations with the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament in favour of a comprehensive and legally secure set of regulations which will allow members states and regions to impose bans on genetically-modified crops; furthermore, the EU must not grant any more permits for growing genetically-modified plants.

Bavaria is pleased to note that the European Commission is aiming for a single EU-wide guideline for the purity at source of natural mineral water. Increasingly precise methods of analysis are sharpening the focus on man-made substances in mineral water, yet regulations and enforcement remain inconsistent across member states. Clearly defined EU statutes are necessary to establish the necessary standards in consumer protection while avoiding competitive disadvantages to producers of mineral water products in individual member states. We hope that the Commission will

continue the work it has started with a consistent orientation towards achieving its goals.

Yours faithfully,


Ulrike Scharf MdL
State Minister