

Consultation on animal cloning for food production

This questionnaire will be used to gather data in the context of the ongoing impact assessment on the possible measures on animal cloning for food production in the EU.

The consultation will remain open until 13 July 2012.

Please note that once you start filling in this questionnaire, the maximum time allowed by the system to complete it is 90 minutes. Partial responses will not be saved.

1.-General information about respondents

This section includes questions about the background of the respondents. Please note that this consultation is subject to a Data Privacy Statement.

1. Please enter your:

Family name *	
First name *	
Organisation	
Address (optional)	

*Compulsory

2. Please choose from the following categories the most relevant to the organisation you may represent:

*Compulsory

	Please select	Name
Individual		No need to fill it
Professional Organisation		
NGOs		
Academic		
International Organisation		
Company		
National Administrative Body		
Other		

*In case you are an individual no need to fill the name

3. Please indicate your country of origin

*compulsory

List of 27 Member States, EU-wide organisation, Non EU country + other please specify.

4. How would you prefer your contribution to be published on the Commission website, if at all?

Under the name indicated (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)	
Anonymously (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)	
Not at all – keep it confidential (My contribution will not be published, but it will be used internally within the Commission)	

One reply only

5. How well informed do you consider you are about the current development related to the use of animal cloning for food production?

Very well informed	
Fairly well informed	
Not very well informed	
Not at all informed	

One reply only

2.- Glossary

For completing this questionnaire the following definitions applies:

"Cloning" means a technique of asexual, artificial reproduction with the aim of producing a near exact genetic copy of the original animal.

"Animal" means any domestic food producing animal of bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and soliped (e.g. horses) species.

"Clone" means an animal produced by means of cloning.

"Offspring (first generation)" means an animal produced by a traditional breeding technique, where at least one of its parents is a clone.

"Descendants (second and further generations)" means an animal produced by a traditional breeding technique, where none of its parents is a clone but one of its ancestors was a clone.

"Reproductive material" means the semen, ova and embryos of clones to be used for traditional breeding techniques.

"Surrogated mothers" A surrogate mother is a female animal who bears an embryo that is from another female's fertilized ova. She carries and gives birth to an animal that is she not the biological mother of.

"Pre-market approval" is the regulatory measure according to which, new substances or new food products which are intended for human consumption and may have a negative effect on public health, have to be assessed and authorized by the competent Authorities before being placed on the EU market.

"Impact assessment" is an evaluation tool to measure what would be the potential impacts of future EU legislation on the various stakeholders (farmers, food industry, distributors, traders, Member State and third country Authorities) in order to prepare legislative proposals in a transparent, comprehensive and balanced way.

3.- Background information

The aim of the use of the cloning technique for farm animals is not to directly produce food products from clones, as the use of this technique remains very expensive and therefore the food production from these animals would not be economically feasible.

Its aim is to multiply the number of high quality animals (reproducers) for meat or milk production, which are used to produce reproductive materials (semen, embryo and ova) for breeding purposes.

It is the offspring obtained from these reproductive materials and their descendants which are intended for the food production.

EU publications

Scientific assessment of the animal cloning

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in its opinion of July 2008 stated that "there is no indication of any difference in food safety for meat and milk of clones and their offspring compared to conventionally bred animals". EFSA confirmed these findings in its 2009 and 2010 statements.

From the data and publications available and analysed up to 2010, EFSA concluded that application of the cloning technique can present welfare challenges for the surrogate mothers and for clones, often at perinatal/juvenile stage and often severely. In the 2010 statement, the overall efficiency of cloning was compared with efficiency of other selective breeding techniques. It noted that the offspring and descendants of clones do not raise specific animal welfare concerns as they are obtained through traditional breeding techniques.

European Group of Ethics (EGE) report 2008

EGE did "not see convincing arguments to justify the production of food from clones and their offspring" (...) "considering the current level of suffering and health problems of surrogate dams and animal clones". The

basic ethical issue EGE raises is the moral status people attribute to animals.

Cultural and religious traditions influence society's attitudes which have broadly evolved between:

- Ones that see animals as their owners' possessions available for any purpose they see fit;
- Ones that give animals respect in varying degrees.

Eurobarometer 2008 on animal cloning

The majority of people interviewed had concerns about animal cloning and were not willing to accept animal cloning for food production. If food products from cloned animals' offspring were to become available, EU citizens wanted them labelled.

4.- Description of the policy options appearing in the roadmap

The Commission has included in its work programme a proposal on animal cloning for food production in 2013. Commission's services are preparing an impact assessment for that purpose. The following 5 policy options have been identified as relevant for assessment:

Option 1 Status quo: The existing legal framework of the Novel Food Regulation (EC) No 258/97 is sufficient to ensure food safety and consumer information. This allows the use of the cloning technique of animals in the EU and requires a pre-market authorisation for food from clones before putting it on the EU market. Such authorisation would be granted on the basis of a food safety scientific assessment. The food from offspring of clones is considered as the same as any other food from animals.

Option 2: the cloning technique is allowed in the EU and food from clones and offspring of clones is subject to a pre-market approval under the new cloning legislation. This option also foresees the setting up of traceability systems for live animals (clones and offspring), reproductive materials from clones and the food derived and the labelling of food from clones and their offspring. This would allow the development of compulsory labelling schemes (whether positive, i.e. food produced from clone/clone offspring or negative i.e. food not produced from clone/clone offspring).

Option 3: The new legislation would establish i) a temporary suspension of cloning technique in the EU and the use of clones and the marketing of food from clones ii) traceability system of imports of semen and embryos to allow farmers and industry to set up a database(s) of offspring in the EU. Such traceability system would allow the development of voluntary labelling schemes for food of EU origin.

Option 4: It will consist of the measures foreseen in option 3, supplemented by the traceability of live offspring from third countries and the traceability and mandatory labelling of food from offspring of clones and their descendants (whether produced in the EU or imported from third countries).

Option 5: legislation suspending the use of (i) the cloning technique in the EU, the use of (ii) clones and live offspring from clones, the use of (iii) reproductive material from clones and (iv) the placing on the market of food from clones and their offspring and descendants.

6. Do you consider appropriate the current situation in which the use of the cloning technique is allowed and a pre-market approval for food from clones is required in the EU (For details see option 1)?

YES	
NO	
No opinion	
Please justify your position:	

5.- Ban of cloning technique and pre-market approval of food on the EU market

As a consequence of the animal welfare problems for clones and the surrogated mothers, it could be envisaged to ban in the EU, the use of i) the cloning technique, ii) cloned animals for food production and iii) food derived from cloned animals.

7. What is your opinion regarding a possible **ban** in the EU of the use of: the animal cloning technique, live cloned animals for breeding purposes, reproductive materials from clones, the live offspring and descendants from clones?

	Cloning technique	Live cloned animals	Reproductive materials	Offspring	Descendants
In favour of a ban					
Against a ban					
No opinion					

Only one reply per column

8. If you are in favour of a **ban** (of the use of the animal cloning technique, live cloned animals for breeding purposes, reproductive materials from clones, the live offspring and descendants from clones), what would be your main reason(s)?

Reason(s) for a ban	Ranking*
Animal health and welfare	
Ethical reasons	
Food Safety	
Biodiversity and genetic variety	
Intellectual property rights	
Others please specify:	

One or several reasons are possible

*Ranking: 1 the most important reason, 5 the least important.

9. If you are against a **ban** (of the use of the animal cloning technique, live cloned animals for breeding purposes, reproductive materials from clones, the live offspring and descendants from clones), what would be your main reasons?

Criteria against a ban	Ranking*
Loss of competitiveness/Higher costs of production of EU farmers	
No food safety concerns	
Administrative burden	
Food security	
Loss of innovation	
International trade barrier	
Others please specify:	

One or several reasons are possible

*Ranking: 1 the most important reason, 6 the least important

10. What is your opinion concerning the **placing of food** from (1) clones, (2) offspring of clones and (3) descendants of clones **on the EU market?**

	Clones	Offspring	Descendants
In favour to allow the placing of food from:			
Against to allow the placing of the food from:			
No opinion			

Only one reply per column

In order to ensure the food safety, the pre-market approval procedure foresees that a new food product shall be assessed and authorized by the competent authorities (At EU or national level) before being placed on the EU market. No request for pre-market approval for food from clones has yet been requested. Therefore food from clones is not authorized and can not be put on the EU market. No pre-market approval for food from offspring and descendants is required as these animals are considered as standard animals.

11 For which type of animals do you consider a pre-market approval for the food derived would be necessary?

	Clones	Offspring	Descendants
Pre-market approval of food necessary			
Pre-market approval of food not necessary			
No opinion			
Please justify your position			

Only one reply for column (excluding justification)

12. If you are in favour of a **pre-market approval**, what would be your main reasons?

Reasons for a pre-market approval	Ranking*
Animal health and welfare	
Ethical reasons	
Food Safety	
Consumers right to know	
Biodiversity and genetic variety	
No opinion	
Others please specify:	

One or several reasons are possible

*Ranking: 1 the most important, 6 the least important

13. If you are against a **pre-market approval** for the placing of food (from clones, offspring of clones and descendants of clones) on the EU market, what would be your main reasons?

Reasons for not having a pre-market approval	Ranking*
Increased administrative burden	
Higher cost of production	
Loss of competitiveness/innovation	
Use of cloning technique should be banned	
Others please specify:	

One or several reasons are possible

*Ranking: 1 the most important, 4 the least important

6.- Identification and registration of live clones, their reproductive materials and live offspring of clones

The identification and registration of live clones, of their reproductive materials (semen, embryos and ova) and of live offspring would be a prerequisite for the monitoring of animal health and welfare aspects and for the setting up of traceability and labelling systems for food products which are derived.

It would be necessary to have a system based on **individual** identification and registration of these animals (either EU produced or imported) to ensure the traceability of clones, offspring, descendants and of food products which are derived. Currently individual identification and registration systems are already in place in the EU for bovines and for sheep and goats since 1 January 2010. For pigs the traceability system is not based on individual identification but on batches of animals.

14. What is your opinion regarding the setting up of a specific **identification and registration system**¹ for (1) live clones, (2) offspring of clones, (3) descendants of clones or (4) reproductive materials?

	Clones	Offspring	Descendants	Reproductive materials
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¹ Apply both for EU production as well as for import into the EU

In favour of the identification and registration of				
Not in favour the identification and registration of				
No opinion				

Only one reply per column

15. In case of the setting up of an **identification and registration system** which form should it take for each category?

	Clones	Offspring	Descendants	Reproductive materials
Compulsory system				
Voluntary system				
No system needed				
No opinion				

Only one reply per column

16. If you are in favour of the setting up of an **identification and registration system** of individual animals, what would be your main reasons?

Justifications	Clones	Offspring	Descendants
Monitoring of Animal health and welfare			
Ensuring farmers information			
Enabling food labelling			
Enabling recalls/withdrawal of animals from the food chain is something goes wrong			
Others please specify:			

One or several justifications are possible

17. If you are against of the setting up of **identification and registration system**, what would be your main reasons?

Justifications	Clones	Offspring	Descendants
Higher costs for EU farmers			
Higher costs for EU consumers			
Increased administrative burden			
No scientific justification			
Against innovation			

Others please specify:			
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One or several reasons are possible in each column

18. In case **identification and registration system** would be set up, which species should it be applied to?

Bovine	
Porcine	
Solipeds	
Goats	
Sheep	

One or several replies are possible

7.- Traceability

The setting up of EU identification and registration systems for live clones, reproductive materials from clones, live offspring and their descendants would allow the **traceability** of clones, offspring and their descendants. It may lead to additional costs for farmers and industry and may pose feasibility problems for some species and food products.

19. What is your opinion regarding the setting up of **traceability systems** for food derived from clones, offspring and their descendants?

	Food from Clones	Food from Offspring	Food from Descendants
In favour of traceability systems			
Against traceability systems			
No opinion			
Please justify			

Only one reply per column (except for justification)

20. Do you consider that these traceability systems may pose feasibility problems?

YES	
NO	
Please specify	

21. Do you consider that the setting up of these traceability systems may lead to additional costs?

YES	
NO	

Please specify	
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22. Who do you consider should bear the traceability additional costs?

	Ranking*
Consumers	
Food industry	
Farmers	
Others please specify	

*Ranking: 1 the most important, 3 the least important

23. In case **traceability systems** for food would be set up for cloning purposes, for which species should it apply?

Bovine	
Porcine	
Solipeds	
Sheep	
Goats	

One or several replies are possible

8.- Consumers' information

The setting up of traceability systems for food from clones, offspring and their descendants would allow consumer information through the labelling of this food about cloning.

24. What is your opinion regarding the setting up of the **labelling** of food derived from clones, offspring and their descendants?

	Clones	Offspring	Descendants
No labelling			
Voluntary labelling			
Mandatory labelling			
Please justify			

*Only one reply for each column (except for justification)

25. In case labelling systems would be set up which types of food products should it apply for?

	Yes	No	No opinion	Please justify
Meat				
Meat processed products				
Milk				

Milk products				
Others (gelatine, casein...)				

One or several replies are possible

26. Do you consider that these labelling systems may pose feasibility problems?

YES	
NO	
Please specify	

27. Do you consider that the setting up of these labelling systems may lead to additional costs?

YES	
NO	
Please specify	

28. In your views, which group of stakeholders would likely be the most affected by possible additional costs resulting from the setting up of labelling systems?

	Ranking*
Consumers	
Food industry	
Farmers	
Others please specify	

*Ranking: 1 the most important, 3 the least important

9.- Other issues

29. Are there any other issues, which have not been covered by the above questionnaire, that you wish to raise or comment?

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