

## Public consultation – Health & Consumers

**Title:** Measures on animal cloning for food production in the EU

**Policy:** Food safety, consumer information, animal health, animal welfare

**Consultation period:** 5 March - 25 May 2012

### Target groups

- Animal breeders and farmers;
- Food industry, the retail and distribution sector;
- Cloning companies;
- Non-governmental organisations;
- Public authorities and trade partners;
- Citizens.

### Purpose and scope

- Collect views on the acceptance of the technique and the introduction of EU measures on animal cloning for food production, their economic, social and environmental impacts in the EU and non-EU countries.
- This initiative only concerns **cloning for food production**. It does not cover the use of the cloning technique for other purposes e.g. research, production of pharmaceuticals or the conservation of endangered species or breeds.
- The collected information will be used in the impact assessment report.
- The Commission has begun the impact assessment in order to propose legislation for adoption in 2013.

### Submitting your contribution

- **Before organisations answer**


Organisations must register in the [Joint Transparency Register](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm) and accept its Code of conduct. If your organisation is not registered, we shall publish your submission separately from that of registered organisations.

- Answer the **ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

- It is also available at **Your Voice in Europe**

### Contact

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### Context

- The Commission's impact assessment will examine all possible measures on animal cloning for food production so that it can propose legislation for adoption in 2013.
- The initiative only concerns **cloning for food production**, not the use of the cloning technique for other purposes e.g. research, production of pharmaceuticals, conservation of endangered species or breeds.
- Since 1997, food from cloned animals requires authorisation before marketing (**Novel Food Regulation**). That does not apply to foods from the offspring of cloned animals which must comply with EU food law as any other foodstuff.
- Current rules on animal health and welfare apply to cloned animals too and the imports of their reproductive materials e.g. semen, embryos, ova.
- The Commission has proposed the following on animal cloning for food production in its **report**:
  1. Suspend temporarily the use of the cloning technique in the EU for the reproduction of all food-producing animals; the use of clones of these animals; import of clones and marketing of food from clones.
  2. Establish traceability of imports of semen and embryos allowing farmers and industry to set up data banks of offspring in the EU.
- The impact assessment will examine additional measures on traceability and labelling of food from offspring and their descendants.
- This consultation covers all these measures.

**Comment [VK3]:** Hyperlink to: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31997R0258:EN:NOT>

**Comment [VK4]:** Hyperlink to [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/docs/20101019\\_report\\_ec\\_cloning\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/20101019_report_ec_cloning_en.pdf)

### Background documents

**Roadmap of the impact assessment on measures on animal cloning for food production in the EU**

**Commission report 2010**

#### EFSA scientific assessments

The **2009** and **2010 EFSA statements** confirm its conclusions in the **2008 opinion**: there is no difference in food safety for meat and milk of clones and their progeny, compared to conventionally bred animals.

In EFSA's opinion, the cloning technique has severe welfare consequences for clones arising directly from its use and the problems caused by selective breeding. EFSA notes that clones' offspring do not raise specific animal welfare concerns.

The Commission has asked EFSA for an update of the assessment taking into account any new knowledge.

#### 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:

**Comment [VK5]:** Not yet public available

**Comment [VK6]:** Hyperlink to: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/docs/20101019\\_report\\_ec\\_cloning\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/20101019_report_ec_cloning_en.pdf)

**Comment [VK7]:** Hyperlink to: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/319.htm>

**Comment [VK8]:** Links please

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**Comment [VK10]:** Hyperlink to <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/767.htm>

**Comment [VK11]:** Hyperlink to: [http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/publications/opinion23\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/publications/opinion23_en.pdf)

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- 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. Should food products from cloned animals' offspring become available, EU citizens wanted them labelled.

These requirements imply the existence of reliable systems for animal identification and traceability in the EU. Developing such systems may have an economic impact on farmers, industry, etc., and should be carefully assessed.

**Comment [VK12]:** Hyperlink to:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/resources/docs/eurobarometer\\_cloning\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/resources/docs/eurobarometer_cloning_en.pdf)