

Open letter to:

Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
All EU Commissioners

9 January 2009

Dear Mr. Barroso, Dear Commissioner,

Re: cloning of animals for food

In recent months, the undersigned organisations have voiced their strong opposition to the cloning of animals for food production. We have been monitoring developments at EU Institutions level and we understand that the full college of Commissioners is going to discuss the issue at the meeting of 13 January in Strasbourg.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again voice our concerns about this unnecessary animal production method and urge you to agree that cloning of animals for food production and the import of products from cloned animals and their descendants must be prohibited in the EU.

Our civil society groups and the millions of citizens they represent believe that the cloning of animals for food production is totally unacceptable and unnecessary and could lead to further industrialisation of livestock production with the related animal health and welfare problems. More specifically we have concerns about the following aspects of cloning:

- The cloning process is inefficient, wastes animals' lives and has a huge potential to cause pain, suffering and distress at all stages.
- Farm animals are already seen by some as commodities rather than sentient beings. Cloning would compound this view, leading to less concern for animal welfare and less willingness to address welfare issues.
- The routine use of cloning would greatly reduce genetic diversity within livestock populations, increasing the chances of whole herds being wiped out by disease to which they would all be equally susceptible.
- The development of animal cloning as a method of food production is being pursued without appropriate public awareness.
- Routine use of cloning technologies in animal farming would make farmers dependent on patented technologies owned by big companies, compromising food sovereignty.

We call on you to take into account the opinion of the EGE on the ethical aspects of animal cloning for food supply, adopted on 16th January 2008 and the opinion of EFSA, published in July 2008. In addition, a majority of EU citizens are opposed to the cloning of animals for food, as shown by the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in September 2008, the results of the Eurobarometer published on 9 October 2008.

In this year of European Elections, EU citizens are sensitive to the impact of the EU on their daily lives. Citizens expect the EU Institutions to take the necessary measures to ensure that the food they eat is safe and produced in an ethical way.

We urge you, as an EU Commissioner, to support a ban on cloning of animals for food production and on the import of cloned animals and products from cloned animals and their offspring.

Yours sincerely,

Sonja Van Tichelen, Director, **Eurogroup for Animals**
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director, **Friends of the Earth Europe**
Joyce D'Silva, Ambassador, **Compassion in World Farming**
Maggy Jennings, Head of Research Animals Department, **Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**