

EUROCOMMERCE POSITIONPAPER

Animal Cloning

- **EU legislators should take the decision on whether to authorise or not the commercialisation of products from cloned animals**
- **EuroCommerce calls for more scientific studies and risk assessment on animal health and welfare, human health and the environment**
- **Ethical considerations to be taken into account**
- **Consumer acceptance**
- **Public information/Traceability**

EU legislators should take the decision on whether to authorise or not the commercialisation of products from cloned animals

Any decision on animal cloning by EU legislators should be based on a complete, official scientific assessment of the risks for human health, animal health and welfare, the environment and on the opinions resulting from ethical debates. In case of authorisation, obligations and rules should be made clear and precise.

EuroCommerce calls for more scientific studies and risk assessment on animal health and welfare, human health and the environment.

More studies should be carried out to precisely evaluate the animal and human health risks, animal welfare issues, as well as the environmental impacts of animal cloning. All scientific assessments of risk should be carried out on a case-by-case basis. EFSA's statement on animal cloning, 23 June 2009 (Question No EFSA-Q-2009-00449), states that most publications have studied embryonic or early development or methodological developments and that there are only a few publications and studies on postnatal or adult animals.

Ethical considerations to be taken into account

EuroCommerce believes that, in the case of animal cloning, ethical considerations play an important part. Therefore it is essential that besides scientific data, other legitimate factors, such as ethical considerations, are taken into account in the official decision-making process leading to authorisation or not by public authorities.

EuroCommerce stresses the importance of an open, thorough and transparent discussion before the adoption of any opinions on the ethical questions put by animal cloning at official level (at both national and Community levels), bringing together all actors, including civil society. These discussions should be on cloning in general, consumption of food from these animals, their offspring, or on specific opinions case-by-case. The commerce sector itself has no intention to participate in the ethical debates.

Consumer acceptance

In case of authorisation by the public authorities, retailers will retain the freedom to sell or not products from cloned animals, in respect of the consumers' freedom of choice; any such product will be sold according to its acceptance by the consumer.

Public information/Traceability

Public authorities, together with scientists, media and operators should inform citizens about animal cloning, the benefits, risks and impacts so that consumers are not left without any knowledge even if the results of assessments have proven such foods to be without risk.

EuroCommerce stresses that all products from cloned animals, including their offspring, should meet traceability requirements along the whole supply chain. In case food derived from cloned animals is authorised on the EU-market, then such foodstuffs must be labelled accordingly. This is the only way to guarantee the consumer's freedom of choice.