

European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders

**EFFAB**

Independent European forum  
for farm animal reproduction and selection organisations

# **European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders**

**Hearing on Cloning**  
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## EFFAB

- European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
- Association of private companies and associations in the breeding sector
- Between 25 and 30 members
- Pigs, poultry, ruminants and aquaculture
- Breeding and reproduction

## Mission

- Promote the interests of the members to international institutions (e.g. European Commission, European Parliament, Stakeholders) in regard to:
  - Policy
  - Research needs
- Stimulate European research activities

## Cloning Directives

- COM 892: Cloning of Animals  
= Cloning Proposal
- COM 893: Placing on the market food from  
animal clones  
= Market Proposal

## Cloning Proposal (Commission)

- Ban on cloning of animals
- Ban on import of embryo-clones and animal clones
- But no ban on import of germinal products (semen and embryos) of cloned animals

## EFFAB POSITION

- Advantages of cloning:
  - Cloning is a reproduction technique, not a breeding technique
  - Cloning can shorten generation intervals and therefor speed up the breeding process
  - Cloning diminishes the risk of losing extremely valueable animals

## EFFAB POSITION

- Cloning Proposal is acceptable for EFFAB:
- Why?
  - It is based on Risk Assessment s of EFSA
  - It is (mainly) based on health and welfare arguments (problems not solved yet)
  - The ban on cloning is temporarily
  - No ban for research, preservation, medical devices
  - **No ban on germinal products of cloned animals**

## EFFAB POSITION

- Restricting import of germinal products of cloned animals is very bad for the EU breeding sector (farmers, breeders and breeding companies)
  - Huge administrative burden
  - Traceability problems
  - Trade problems with countries like USA (TTIP)
- but most important
  - It would affect the competitiveness of the EU breeding sector



## Market Proposal and EFFAB Opinion

- No products of cloned animals in the food chain
- The prohibition does not reflect the EFSA opinion
- No restriction on products of offspring of cloned animals
- Essential for the breeding sector (see previous arguments)

## EFFAB POSITION

### Advice to the European Parliament

- The Directives are maybe not ideal
- But they are acceptable for the moment
- **Don't make it worse!!**

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