



Impact of cloning on animal breeding in Europe

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Public hearing on CLONING OF ANIMALS FOR FARMING PURPOSES
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About Copa-Cogeca

Copa – European farmers
Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

66 member organisations

Representing around 12 million farmers and 22.000 cooperatives

Objective:

- defend the general agricultural interest of our members
- find solutions of common interest

Point of view of Copa-Cogeca on cloning

Animal breeders respect the EU legislation.

Everything has been done according to the different laws:

- Animal Health law
- Animal Welfare law
- Zootechnical Law
- Novel Food...

Cloning is of limited interest for EU animal breeders due to

- concerns about genetic diversity and the missing genetic progress from one generation to the next
- no acceptance of the technology in the EU market
- high costs
- low efficiency (EFSA report 2012: efficiency only 13-25% when compared to IVF)

Point of view of Copa-Cogeca on cloning

Research and Development (R&D):

- high interest to continue the research activities on cloning

3 main reasons:

- Better knowledge of the mechanism (would allow us to breed for healthier and more fertile animals)
- Retain competitiveness of the Scientific teams in the EU
- European scientific expertise urgently needed in international discussions (with Third countries)

Point of view of Copa-Cogeca on cloning

Do not under-estimate the situation of international trade

Permanent exchange of genetic material between the EU and Third countries

Europe is not an island:

Imports into EU: beef: ~300 000T, sheep: 200 000T, Poultry:~
800 000 T

The challenge for the EU: how to reconcile:

- Fair competition
- Societal acceptance
- Reliable traceability

Preference to EU legal framework

- Which legal instrument is appropriate (directive or regulation)
- Effective control mechanism needed

Point of view of Copa Cogeca on cloning

In Europe: A suffix is available to deal with the traceability of the clones made in Europe.

Traceability of the clones – available for the breeding companies

Progeny of clones: much more difficult

- Need a central data base
- Costly and complex

Traceability in cattle is very costly

- Being the weakest link in the chain, farmers end up in paying the costs

Would traceability of clones require individual electronic identification (EID) of all animals?

- issue of non-acceptance of mandatory EID in sheep!
- burdensome for other species

Point of view of Copa Cogeca on cloning

Clear distinction between clones and progeny

- EFFSA opinion is very clear in that respect
- Offspring of clones showed no difference with conventional offspring
- Cloning is not a food safety issue

The Breeder would have to guarantee the absence of the clones and offspring thereof in the pedigree

- But how can he do it if the relevant information is not available and/or Third Parties are not transparent ?
- Who will pay for the development of appropriate control methods and who will bear the running expenses?

Point of view of Copa-Cogeca on cloning

In conclusion:

There is no use of clones from European breeding companies for food purposes.



Merci

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