

Parma, 4 April 2007
Ref HK/JK (2007) out-2068615

Mr. Robert Madelin
Director-General
Health & Consumer Protection
Directorate-General
B-1049 Brussels

**Re: European Commission request to the European Food Safety Authority for
advice on the implications of animal cloning**

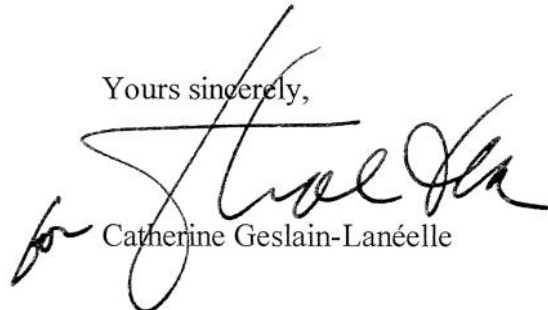
Dear Mr. Madelin,

Dear Robert,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 15 February 2007, requesting EFSA for advice on the implication of animal cloning (SCNT) on food safety, animal health and welfare and the environment. First of all, please let me point out that overall EFSA is very pleased with this important question. Taking into account the complexity of the issue and the broad range of types of expertise needed to address this question, EFSA will charge its Scientific Committee to handle the request. The Scientific Committee will meet in plenary on 16-17 April to discuss the mandate and define a working strategy. Therefore we will only send you our formal acceptance letter after the Scientific Committee Plenary meeting.

Regarding the proposed time frame I would like to point out that EFSA will need more time than the indicated 6 months for completion of the opinion. It is our intention to seek broad input from all stakeholders at the start of the work and to arrange for a public consultation prior to the publication of the opinion. We will propose a more realistic time frame in our acceptance letter.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Cc: Herman Koeter, Djien Liem, Juliane Kleiner

