



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

SANCO

15. 02. 2007

Brussels,
SANCO/E4/PM/ko (2007) D/540056

Dear Ms Geslain Lanéelle,

Chère Catherine

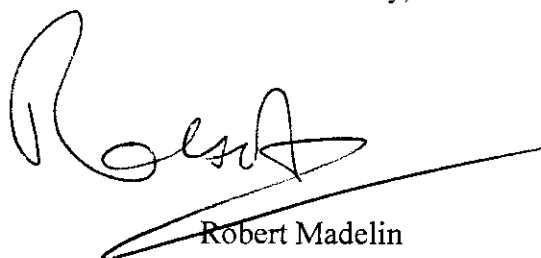
Subject: European Commission request to the European Food Safety Authority for advice on the implications of animal cloning (SCNT)

Please find attached the background and terms of reference for a scientific opinion on the implication of animal cloning (SCNT) on food safety, animal health and welfare and the environment.

I would like by this letter to formally refer the attached request to EFSA for a scientific opinion, to be provided by 1 August 2007.

For further information on this matter, you can contact Ms Päivi Mannerkorpi of the unit responsible for novel food legislation or Mr Michael Walsh of the unit responsible for the relations with EFSA. The contact details are given below.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Madelin

Ms Catherine Geslain Lanéelle
Executive Director
European Food Safety Authority
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I-43100 Parma

Enclosure: European Commission request to the European Food Safety Authority on the implications of animal cloning (SCNT) on food safety, animal health and welfare and the environment

Cc: Ms S. Renckens, Ms Pilar Rodriguez Iglesias (EFSA)
Mr E. Thévenard, Ms L. Caratini, Mr L. Terzi, Mr B. van Goethem, Mr B. Mathioudakis, Mr W. Penning, Mr R. Vanhoorde, Mr M. Scannell, Mr M. Flüh, Mr K-U. Sprenger, Mr Andrea Gavinelli, Ms S. Osaer, Mr M. Walsh, Mr R. Cavaleiro Azevedo, Mr A. Klepsch, Ms P. Mannerkorpi (SANCO)

Contacts: Päivi Mannerkorpi – Unit E.4, telephone: (32-2)299.37.24
Michael Walsh- Unit 0.3, telephone (32-2)295.77.05

**European Commission request to the European Food Safety Authority for advice on
the implications of animal cloning (SCNT) on food safety, animal health and
welfare and the environment**

Background

According to experts animal cloning carried out by somatic cell nucleus transfer (SCNT) is on the verge of widespread commercial use and expected to spread within the global food chain before 2010. Food (e.g. meat and milk) derived, in particular, from traditionally produced offspring of cloned animals might therefore be available to consumers in the future.

In the USA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published on 28 December 2006 its comprehensive draft risk assessment, risk management proposal and guidance for industry on animal cloning. The FDA concluded that products from cloned animals and their offspring are as safe as their conventional counterparts. The above mentioned developments will be facilitated if the FDA – as expected - will give the green light for the technique before the end of this year.

SCNT allows scientists to create genetic replicas (clones) of adult animals. However, in their phenotype there can be differences. The EU is already faced with embryos (offspring of a cloned parent) and soon with semen (sperm) from clones offered in a global market for animal germ products.

Community interest

DG SANCO is currently reflecting on the development of its policy in this area, in the framework of legislation on novel foods, zootechnics, animal health and welfare.

Therefore, the European Commission has decided to ask the European Food Safety Authority for advice on the implications of SCNT on food safety, animal health and welfare and the environment.

Terms of reference

The European Commission requests the European Food Safety Authority to advise on food safety, animal health, animal welfare and environment implications of live cloned animals, obtained through SCNT technique, their offspring and of the products obtained from those animals.