

Parma, 19 July 2007
Ref. RS/HK/CGL/eb (2007) 2250703

Mr Robert Madelin
Director General
DG SANCO
European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr Madelin,

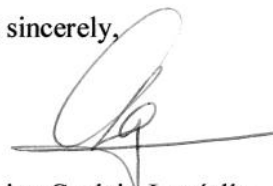
Subject: EFSA scientific advice on the fate of recombinant DNA or proteins in meat, milk and eggs from animals fed with GM feed

With reference to your letter of 15 March 2007 (SANCO/E1/SG/cc (2007) D/51044), following a petition of Greenpeace, please find attached the requested EFSA reply on the potential to which transgenes or their products may be incorporated into animal tissue products such as eggs and milk in view of the fate of recombinant protein and DNA within the gastrointestinal tract of livestock.

After considering relevant scientific literature, including the most recent publications of 2007, EFSA concludes that:

- (1) Biologically active genes and proteins are common constituents of foods and feed in varying amounts. After ingestion, a rapid degradation into short DNA or peptide fragments is observed in the gastrointestinal tract of animals and humans.
- (2) To date, a large number of experimental studies with livestock have shown that recombinant DNA fragments or proteins derived from GM plants have not been detected in tissues, fluids or edible products of farm animals like broilers, cattle, pigs or quails.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle