



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2008/2598(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the cloning of animals for food supply		
Subject		
3.10.10 Foodstuffs, foodstuffs legislation		
4.20.02.04 Genetics and bioethics		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
02/09/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
03/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/09/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0400/2008	Summary
03/09/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2598(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B6-0545/2008	01/09/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0373/2008	02/09/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0400/2008	03/09/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)6486	17/12/2008	EC	

Resolution on the cloning of animals for food supply

The House held a debate on Oral Question [O-0069/2008](#) to the Commission on the cloning of animals for food supply.

Resolution on the cloning of animals for food supply

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 2 September 2008, the European Parliament adopted by 622 votes to 32 with 25 abstentions, a resolution tabled by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the cloning of animals for food supply.

It called on the Commission to submit proposals prohibiting:

- the cloning of animals for food supply purposes ;
- the farming of cloned animals or their offspring;
- the placing on the market of meat or dairy products derived from cloned animals or their offspring and the importing of cloned animals, their offspring, semen and embryos from cloned animals or their offspring, and meat or dairy products derived from cloned animals or their offspring.

Parliament pointed out that cloning processes show low rates of survival for transferred embryos and cloned animals, with many cloned animals dying in the early stages of life from cardiovascular failure, immuno-deficiencies, liver failure, respiratory problems, and kidney and musculoskeletal abnormalities. The mortality and morbidity of clones are higher than in sexually produced animals and late pregnancy losses and disorders are likely to affect the welfare of surrogate mothers. Given current levels of suffering and health problems of surrogate dams and animal clones the European Group on Ethics questions whether cloning animals for food is ethically justified and does not see convincing arguments to justify food production from clones and their offspring.

Parliament also pointed out that cloning would significantly reduce genetic diversity within livestock populations, increasing the possibility of whole herds being decimated by diseases to which they are susceptible. While the principal purpose of cloning is to produce multiple copies of animals with fast growth rates or high yields, traditional selective breeding has already led to leg disorders and cardiovascular malfunction in fast-growing pigs, and lameness, mastitis and premature culling in high-yielding cattle. Cloning the fastest-growing and highest-yielding animals will lead to even higher levels of health and welfare problems.

Lastly, and in addition to the fact that the implications of the cloning of animals for food supply have not been adequately studied, cloning poses a serious threat to the image and substance of the European agricultural model, which is based on product quality, environment-friendly principles and respect for stringent animal welfare conditions.