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Cloning for farming purposes

to be worth it the new legislation must include a ban on food from descendants of cloned animals

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On Tuesday 8 September, MEPs will vote in plenary on EU legislation on the cloning of animals.

For years, Greens have been in favour of a ban on cloning as it has strong negative impacts on animal welfare and biodiversity. It does not offer any advantage to citizens, nor does it have any beneficial effect on food security, food safety or breeding improvement.

New legislation on cloning will make sense only if it includes a comprehensive ban on cloning, and on the placing on the market of food from clones and their descendants.

Greens are now hoping that in the plenary vote on 8 September, the whole European Parliament will echo this position.

New EU legislation must set an example and ban all cloning practices

So far, there is no EU legislation on cloning and food from cloned animals has been covered by the [Novel Food](#) Regulation. Member States report that no cloning for food production takes place on their territories. However there are lots of uncertainties as to the extent of imports of clones or reproductive material of clones. Food from cloned animals could be lawfully placed on the market (thanks to a pre-market authorisation). As for food from descendants of cloned animals, there are no rules at all, so it can enter the market unnoticed!

After lengthy discussions on the issue, since 2008, the Commission presented two proposals related to cloning in December 2013: one on [cloning of animals](#) [1] and the other on [food from cloned animals](#).

The proposals of the Commission to move to a specific legislative framework are aimed at better defining the limits of cloned food practices. However, these proposals do not prohibit food from descendants of cloned animals from entering the market and do not include traceability measures. They ignore the fact that the whole aim of cloning in food production is to produce food from the descendants of cloned animals!

Greens supported the progressive report, voted in [committee](#) last June, which calls for a ban on cloning and a ban on placing on the market and import of cloned animals, their reproductive material and their descendants. For the Greens, including the ban on food from descendants of cloned animals is a crucial point for the vote on the final report on 8 September.

Why Greens are in favour of a ban: our main criticism on cloning



- Cloning affects animal health and welfare

Success rates - defined as cloned animals born alive- are very low (