

## ***Council should step back on meat from cloned animals***

**Brussels, 23/06/2009** - The IFOAM EU Group (1) strongly criticises yesterday's agreement of the Agricultural Council in Luxembourg to pave the way for possible authorisation of meat of cloned animal and its offspring in the EU. This step is not only cynical regarding consumers demand for clone-free-meat, but also ethically questionable; it threatens animal welfare and puts in consequence global food security at risk.

"There is no need for meat from cloned animals on the European market, hence the Council's agreement is a provocation for EU citizens who are clearly against any cloning technologies. There is scientific evidence that cloning causes pain and suffering to animals, and negative consequences to their health. These technologies are highly controversial and therefore it is not understandable that the Agriculture Council agreed on the possibility to allow meat from cloned animals", says Thomas Fertl, Vice President of the IFOAM EU Group.

"The Council didn't even take into consideration the recommendation of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to implement further studies on the impact of cloning for livestock", adds Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Group. "Further, cloning leads to irresponsible reduction of genetic diversity and limits the future possibilities in livestock breeding. This is in particular worrying as genetic diversity is key for global food security".

Therefore the IFOAM EU Group urges the Council and the EU Commission to wait for further scientific evidence and to follow the position of the European Parliament from March 2009 not to authorise any meat from cloned animals and its offspring within the EU.

End (characters 1720)

More information:

IFOAM EU Group, phone + 32-2-280 12 23, Fax: +32-2-735 73 81,  
[info@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:info@ifoam-eu.org), [www.ifoam-eu.org](http://www.ifoam-eu.org)

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### NOTES:

(1) The IFOAM EU Group represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.