

## Anima International's response to TRIS Notification 2024/0394/HU

As an international organization, Anima International would like to contribute to Hungary's notification of the draft law 'Draft act prohibiting the production and placing on the market of laboratory-grown meat' with the following comments:

- Cultivated meat is governed by Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on Novel Foods, which requires pre-market authorization under this regulation to scientifically verify its safety for consumption. The existing regulatory framework for novel foods in the EU is sufficient, with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) ensuring food safety. Consequently, the proposed law is redundant for consumers' health and safety protection and instead creates obstacles to trade within the Internal Market.
- The draft legislation suggests a solution that will treat producers of cultivated meat with disadvantage in the Internal Market. As a result, the draft law is imposing a trade barrier on cultivated meat and is limiting fair competition within one industry sector.
- By prohibiting the production and sale of cultivated meat products in Hungary, the draft legislation prevents any farmer or enterprise in the country from expanding and developing their business, and seeking EFSA approval to market products in other EU Member States. Consequently, the proposed legislation constitutes a significant obstacle to entrepreneurship and trade within the Internal Market and puts Hungarian farmers and enterprises in a disadvantageous position.
- We also want to point out that the justification and intentions of this draft legislation are based on assumptions and stereotypes. There are no evidence based arguments showing that cultivated meat is a threat to agriculture, rural life or farmers prosperity. Contrary to that, there is research showing potential benefits of cultivated meat to the environment and reduction of environment impact of meat production. (UNEP. 2023. [What's Cooking? An assessment of potential impacts of selected novel alternatives to conventional animal products.](#))