

Bene Meat Technologies: comments on TRIS notification 2024/0394/HU

Dear all,

This is our reaction to Hungary's initiative of banning the production and sale of cultivated meat that has been recently published in TRIS.

Our company Bene Meat Technologies, a leading producer of cultivated meat in the EU, is positioned to offer insights into this matter due to its expertise in biotechnology, research, sustainability, and safety related to cultured meat.

We understand the importance of consumer protection, safety, and moderate market regulation. We would like to provide several reasons why we think that any ban of production and sale of cultivated meat is not grounded.

Safety first

The EU has a robust system for ensuring safety of new products and protection of the consumer. Cultivated meat undergoes strict regulation by the respective authorities (EC, ESFA etc.) ensuring it adheres to the same safety standards as any other food products. Moreover, produced in controlled, sterile environments devoid of large animal populations and slaughter, it boasts lower susceptibility to contamination compared to industrial animal agriculture.

Expanding choices

With global meat demand soaring and traditional farming facing challenges such as insufficient raw materials and rising prices, we see cultivated meat as a complementary solution, not a substitute of industrial agriculture. Once the product is found safe by regulatory bodies then it is up to the consumer to decide what product to purchase.

Above all, cultivated meat holds the promise of providing people with the meat they enjoy in a manner that aligns with their ethical and environmental values. Why hinder progress when it offers a harmonious solution alongside traditional methods?

Impact on the planet

Sustainability is currently very important in every decision being taken. Cultivated meat is considered to be a sustainable innovative option alongside traditional livestock farming. This type of innovation, capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving agricultural land, water, and energy, is globally supported and is part of international agreements. Studies by independent organizations show that cultivated meat can address the rising demand for meat in a way that is not detrimental to the environment. Please see more information here: <https://www.unep.org/resources/whats-cooking-assessment-potential-impacts-selected-novel-alternatives-conventional>

Complementarity over competition

Cultivated meat serves as a complementary solution to address the escalating global demand for meat, coexisting harmoniously with existing methods of meat production. Given the challenges confronting our food supply, embracing innovation to foster a plethora of safe, sustainable, and palatable options is imperative.

Fostering Innovation

The biotechnology industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy. Proposed bans on cultivated meat pose a threat to EU's status as a pioneer in innovation and may confer a competitive advantage to other nations in crafting resilient, self-sustaining food systems. Embracing advancements in biotechnology, particularly in the field of cultivated meat, not only ensures EU's continued leadership in innovation but also fosters a more sustainable and secure food future for all.

We perceive Hungarian's initiative as a non-grounded step with the aim to protect traditional farmers through unjustified ban of novel food (cultivated meat) and which is clearly against founding treaties of EU.