

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002144/24
to the Commission
Mireia Borrás Pabón (Pfe), Raffaele Stancanelli (Pfe)
(17 October 2024)**

Subject: 'Lab to Fork'

Laboratory-grown protein products, sponsored by the Commission, are generating debate about their impact in the sovereign states of the EU. The 'Farm to Fork' Strategy and its associated regulations are endangering our nations' agri-food system — in view of the introduction of such artificial products, the European Commission might as well re-brand its initiative as 'Lab to Fork'.

The livestock sector, which supports thousands of jobs and is key to rural development, is threatened by these substitutes. Moreover, the lack of long-term studies on the effects on human health and the absence of a clear legal framework create uncertainty about these synthetic products which — we hope — will never be referred to as 'meat'.

In light of the above:

Has the Commission measured the economic impact on the livestock sector of introducing lab-grown protein products?

Submitted: 17.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(3 January 2025)**

The novel food legislation ⁽¹⁾ has been designed to support innovation and aims to address possible safety concerns in a number of innovative food or food production techniques, including for lab-grown meat.

Such products can eventually be placed on the EU market only after an authorisation has been granted by the Commission following a thorough pre-market safety assessment by the European Food Safety Authority.

The novel food legislation also foresees that other legitimate factors relevant to the application under consideration may be taken into account for the authorisation. Moreover, the *acquis* of the EU food law, when relevant, would apply to these products.

Regarding the relevant research activities funded under the Horizon Europe programme, the project FEASTS ⁽²⁾ (Fostering European cellular Agriculture for Sustainable Transition Solutions) started in December 2023 and will end in November 2026.

It involves 35 Partners from 36 Countries with a multi stakeholders engagement including farmers and consumers. The drivers of this project are animal welfare, environmental sustainability and food safety and security, putting consumers at the centre.

The Commission continues to follow the development of lab-grown protein products.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of 25 November 2015 on novel foods. OJ L327, 11.12.2015, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Fostering European cellular Agriculture for Sustainable Transition Solutions — FEASTS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136749>