



Animals are not an invention of the animal feed industry!

Opposition to European Patent on salmon

The European Patent Office (EPO) has granted a patent on salmon fed with certain plants (EP1965658). The feedstuff is patented, as is the rearing and feeding of the fish, the fish itself and the fish oil. The fish can be fed with conventional or genetically modified plants.

If animals become an invention just because they eat a certain type of feedstuff, we will very soon have patents on pastured cows and pigs. Such patents can affect agriculture very directly. Farmers would then not be allowed to milk a cow without permission of the patent holder, or to slaughter a pig, or sell chicken eggs.



The patent led to public protests in 2016 when the EPO first announced it was granting the patent. At that time, the European Patent Office received hundreds of letters of protest and stopped the application approval process. However, in October 2018 the patent was granted after all. *No patents on seeds!* believes that the patent violates the prohibition of patents on plants and animals from conventional breeding.

No patents on seeds! is preparing an opposition to be handed over to the European Patent Office in Munich on 26 June. The Administrative Council i.e. the controlling body of the EPO where its 38 contracting states are represented is scheduled to convene on that day. *No patents on seeds!* is calling for politicians to take responsibility and to change the law if necessary. In future, it should be made impossible for patents to be granted on conventionally bred plants and animals. It is feared that these patents will primarily serve the interests of large companies such as Bayer in taking control of agriculture and food production.

No patents on seeds! is calling for support for the opposition – the more signatures we gather the more emphatic the message.

[Press release](#)

[Support the opposition online](#)

[Download pdf form to support the opposition](#)

[Text of the patent](#)

[Background: Patents on animals](#)