

Support for the opposition to the patent on salmon

Animals are not an invention of the animal feed industry!

Dear Sir or Madam

I oppose the granting of patent EP1965658 claiming feedstuff for fish, rearing salmon, the salmon itself and fish oil derived thereof. The supposed invention is that special feedstuff is fed to the fish to increase the concentration of omega-3 fatty acids in products such as fish oil. According to the patent specification, the feedstuff can either come from conventional breeding or be genetically engineered. The patent must be revoked in particular for the following reasons:

- The patent is not inventive. If animals can be declared an invention just because they are fed specific feedstuffs, then very soon we will see pastured cattle and pigs being patented. Such patents can have a very direct and immediate effect on agriculture. In such circumstances, farmers would not be allowed to milk a cow without permission from the patent holder, or to slaughter a pig, or sell chicken eggs.
- The patent is not new. It is known, for example, that the milk from pasture-fed cows has a higher content of the fatty acids as described in the patent. Thus, it is not surprising that changes in the composition of the feedstuff also change the composition of the food derived from these animals.
- The patent infringes Article 53b of the EPC, which prohibits patents on animal species and the conventional breeding of animals. Accordingly, animal species such as salmon are not patentable. Animal feed from conventional breeding is likewise not patentable.
- The patent also infringes Article 53a of the EPC, which prohibits patents whose use violates fundamental ethical values. If livestock are patented, it is to be feared that animal welfare will suffer due to companies seeking maximum financial gain within the term of the patents.
- I urge you therefore to revoke the patent, to respect the existing prohibitions and uphold the principle of not granting patents on plants and animals.

First Name	Surname	City	Country

Place, Date, Signature

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Keine Patente auf Saatgut!
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