



Alþingi Kirkjustræti

150 Reykjavík

January 15, 2022

Subject : Umsögn um þingmál 15, frumvarp til laga um breytingu á lögum um velferð dýra, nr. 55/2013 (bann við blóðmerahaldi)- Umsagnaraðili: Julien Visse / SNGTV

Ágæta Alþingi / Dear Members of the Parliament

First, the veterinarians of the ovine commission of SNGTV (National Society of Veterinary Technical Groups) would like to reiterate their commitment to animal welfare and the necessary control of the PMSG collection process on the mares collected in order to guarantee its respect.

The French sheep industry is strategic for the French agriculture. The use of PMSG as part of the protocol for controlling estrous cycles in ewes is essential.

The sheep industry is complementary to a large number of animal and plant productions, but also to environmentally friendly practices (CIPAN pastures, methanization, photovoltaic energy), allowing it to adapt to specific contexts and to a changing economic situation thanks to the great aptitudes and genetic diversity of its animals.

As a meat, dairy and wool production, it allows the valorization and the dynamization of rural and agricultural territories, sometimes the least favored ones, and promotes the excellence and know-how in terms of production quality, genetic and zootechnical performance.

This sector uses few chemical inputs and meets current societal demands : rationalization of meat consumption, de-intensification of production, quality products with high added value, and marketing in short circuits.

It provides a significant income to producers in a context of global competition, thanks to the excellence of its sectors and the know-how of its stakeholders.

The control of reproduction in this sector is partly achieved through the synchronization of ewes in order to spread out production, particularly off-season. This meets the needs of consumers on the one hand, and allows access to artificial insemination for breeders on the other hand. It is economically indispensable because it promotes the rationalization and planning of the farm activity for the supply of milk and lambs at the different periods of needs of the sector. This guarantees the sustainability of local productions, limits the recourse to imports, and fosters the economic competitiveness of the structures of the sector.

Artificial insemination is fundamental in this production because it allows :

- from a sanitary point of view, the creation and diffusion of sanitary control progress ensuring the safety of the marketed food within the framework of prion diseases. Current research suggests the possibility of producing more robust animals resistant to parasites, with an increased life expectancy, thus responding to societal demands for less use of inputs and respect of animal welfare,

- from a zootechnical point of view, the creation and dissemination of characteristics of excellence in the production chain : meat conformation, milk production, prolificacy, etc., all of which guarantee the performance of the French industry.

In the current state of knowledge and trials, and in the absence of alternatives, the synchronization of ewes is not possible without PMSG. Without it, artificial insemination would become an illusion. Maintaining the production of PMSG while respecting animal welfare is a fundamental issue for the sector.

For the SNGTV Sheep Commission

Julien Visse

President