



# **The synergy of vegetarian and animal rights activism**

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# **Vegetarianism – Animal Movement**

**Interdependent?**

**or**

**something completely independent?**

**→ historical analysis**

# Early Greek philosophy: Pythagoras of Samos

- **569 – 475 BC**
- **„all is number“**
- **Transmigration of souls to plants or animals  
→ vegetarianism**
- **Strict religious brotherhood**
- **Weird ethics: abstinence from beans,  
rule of silence, cultish acts ...**





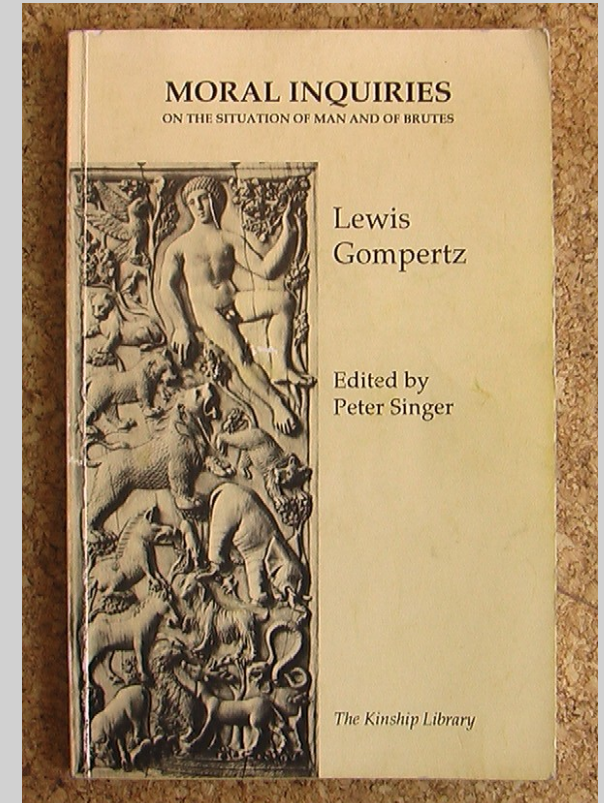
# 18th century: enlightenment

## Concern for animals without vegetarianism:

- **Thomas Tryon (1683):** birds have natural rights
- **Francis Hutcheson (1755):** animals have the right not to suffer unnecessary pain
- **Johann Winkler (1770):** animals should only be subjected to pain, if it is absolutely necessary
- **Humphrey Primatt (1776):** to suffer pain is to suffer evil, for animal or man
- **Wilhelm Dietler (1787):** man has duties towards the lower animals
- **Jeremy Bentham (1789):** The question is not, can they reason or can they talk, but can they suffer

# 19th century: Lewis Gompertz

- **Co-Founder of first animal protection society (R)SPCA**
- **Book explaining reasons for veganism (even though he considers that unhealthy)**
- **No horse carriages (even though the only means of transport)**
- **„Man and other animals“ have identical self that gives them equal moral status**





# 19th/20th century

- **1877: 1st vegetarian restaurant in Austria („for people interested in animal protection “)**
- **1878: 1st „vegetarian club“ in Austria**
- **1889: Vegetarian Federal Union (IVU since 1908)**
- **Henry Salt (1891): 1st animal rights group „Humanitarian League“**
- **1893: 1st World Vegetarian Congress**
- **1902: 1st Austrian Vegetarian Day**
- **Leonard Nelson (1882-1927): Kantian but animal rights, separates moral agents and moral patients; founds 1925 ISK with a network of vegetarian restaurants and anti-nazi resistance in Germany**
- **Donald Watson (1944): 1st Vegan Society**



**But (till 1980/90ies or today)**

**Most animal activism:**

- **against vivisection**
- **against gross abuse of pet animals**
- **sanctuary and animal rescue service work**

**Why?**

**Meat consumption considered self-evidently right**

→ **rationalisation: Animal SUFFERING is morally wrong, not humane killing of animals**



# Philosophical input

**Is death not the greatest harm and the right to life a central demand? For humans, surely!**

**Argument from Epikur:**

- If you are not yet dead: no harm done**
- If you are already dead: no-one there, who could have been harmed**

**BUT: This argument assumes that ethical decisions can be based only on consequences of actions (to be non-**



# Consciousness: autonomy

**I am conscious → consciousness exists**

**I came to be through evolution**

**→ Consciousness came to be through evolution**

**Anything developed through evolution must have an effect on the being having it (if its not an epiphenomenon)**

**→ Consciousness has an effect on the behaviour of conscious beings**

**This effect is called „free will“: autonomy**



# Consciousness is not an epiphenomenon

- **Consciousness needs a lot of energy**
  - evolution would produce the same brain action without (if it was possible)
- **Consciousness needs sleep (computers don't)**
- **Consciousness can do more than computers:**
  - Understand new problems
  - Drop old problem solving schemes
- **Conscious learning is slow + tiring, (consciously) learnt schemes can be used quickly + easily**



# Autonomy: values

**Autonomy: the will for something**

→ **preferences for something**

→ **ability to value something: „good“ is in accordance with my preferences**

**Example: decision (will) what to eat („good“)**

→ **ability to suffer is special case of ability to value something (e.g.: „bad“ food makes me suffer)**



→ **Autonomy is the premiere quality of conscious beings**

→ **Sentiency and the ability to suffer is only a quality DERIVED from autonomy**

**We would rather live autonomously, even if that causes more suffering, than have a supersmart being decide for us what we have to do, even if that would mean least suffering**



# Consequentialism - Deontology

**Autonomy is highest value as pre-condition for any valueing at all**

**But: just to value something is not enough to have a right to it (consequentialism not sufficient)**

**Is autonomy an objective value? (is deontology rationally possible?)**

**NO. Rationally, there cannot be objective values, as only conscious subjects can (subjectively) value at all – BUT ...**



# Categorical values

**Basic pre-condition for autonomy (i.e. any will or any value) is life, i.e. to be alive**

- Its life is in the interest of every conscious being**
- Its life is of positive value to any conscious being (categorically)**
- It is in the interest of any conscious being to have its life protected**
- Life gives rise to deontological ethics**



# What are rights?

**Society has monopoly on violence: should stop individual violence by being all-powerful**

→ **Monopoly on violence could potentially enforce any value**

→ **Rights of the individual to something are guarantees by society to respect and defend this something on behalf of the individual**

→ **Rights are individual claims against (human) society**



# Right to Life

- **Life of conscious beings is a categorical value**
  - **Every conscious being has a right to life**
- **The right to life is deontologically derived and therefore independent of a being actually suffering the loss of life**
- **This derivation is rational and still not consequentialist**
- **Human right to life equally exists as a fundamental right deontologically**
  - **painless sudden animal killing is unethical**



# **Meat consumption: cultural background**

**In medieval times: strict feudal hierarchy**

**→ the more upper class the more meat**

**→ the lower in the hierarchy the more vegan  
(similar to fur)**

**Enlightenment: end of strict hierarchy (class transitions become possible)**

**→ meat consumption gets high value**



# Meat consumption ingrained

**Meat being fed to children in early age:**

- **Positive value (parents do/provide it)**
- **No criticism possible**

**→ meat consumption becomes self-evidently correct**



# Meat consumption the norm

## Self-evidence of meat consumption

→ irrational reasons for rationalisation:

- Natural (what about bad eye-sight?)
- Only suffering not death is a harm to non-human animals
- Veg'ism for ascetics
- Quoting religious writings
- Global veganism unthinkable (seeking other measures against global warming)



# **Meat consumption: fundamental speciesist exploitation**

**If ethical starting point: meat consumption**

**→ dealing with non-humans evaluated in comparison**

- Vivisection better reason**
- Fur is leather with hair**
- Nitsch's animals are being eaten**
- Bull fighting: better than factory farming**
- ...**



# **Veg# campaigning at the heart of animal activism**

**Without meat consumption:**

**Majority of people already in favour of animal rights!**

- The normality of consuming animal products is the one big obstacle to achieving animal rights**
- Success of veg# campaign important**



# Political versus private veg#ism

**Veg#ism as the central animal rights issue is political, not private, i.e.:**

- Electoral issue**
- Not religious**
- Political demand, not up to „good people“**
- changing the minds of people is important, but NOT enough**
- confrontative activism has its place besides cooperative activism**



# Society's Stability Hypothesis

Continuum of animal usage: \_\_\_\_\_

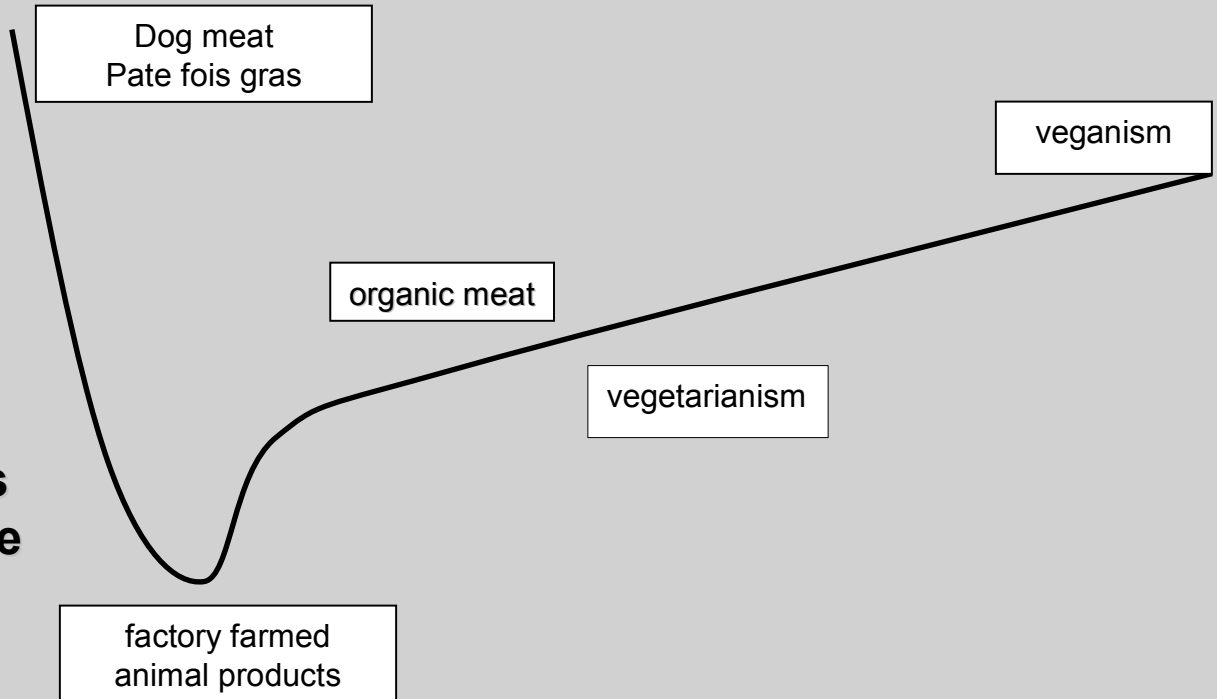
arbitrary consumption

organic meat

veganism

System (political, economic) changes line (through social pressure, easy availability, laws, ...):

To live outside the trough costs energy, „roll back“ if you don't invest → needs lots of motivation; is not sustainable and stable on a long term.  
→ system must change: attitudes in society, availability of vegan products, laws, ...!





# System change needed

**Persuading one person after the other does not work, as long as the system is such that „living“ animal rights is hard**

**(e.g.: everyone is against battery eggs, but everyone is buying them!)**

**→ people are not evil, the system is; people will adapt**

**→ we need to achieve lasting system change!**

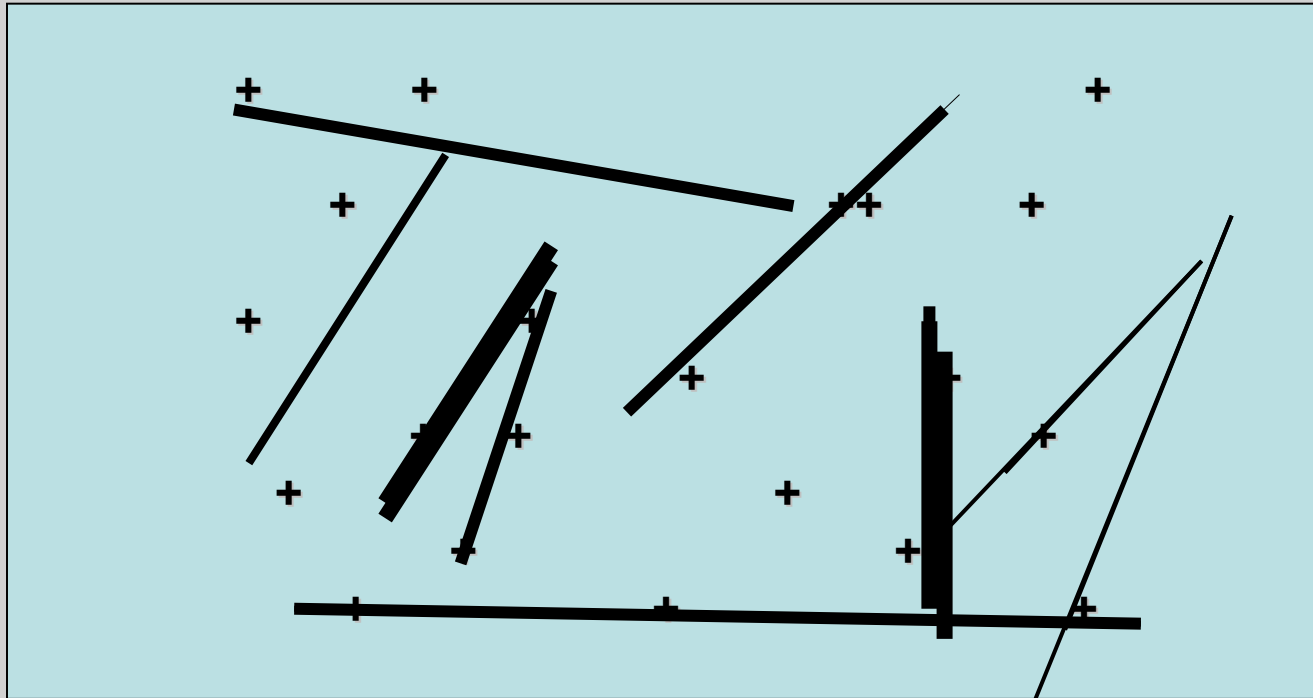


# Ways to change the system

- **Stability and security of society must remain unchallenged (small incremental change, scientific basis, alternatives available)**
- **Pressure on animal industries and politics to make animal products more expensive**
- **Pressure on industries and trade to make vegan alternatives available and cheap**
- **Make animal products a matter of conflict in society**
- **Make sure the public sympathises with your aims and actions**

# Goal: media attention?

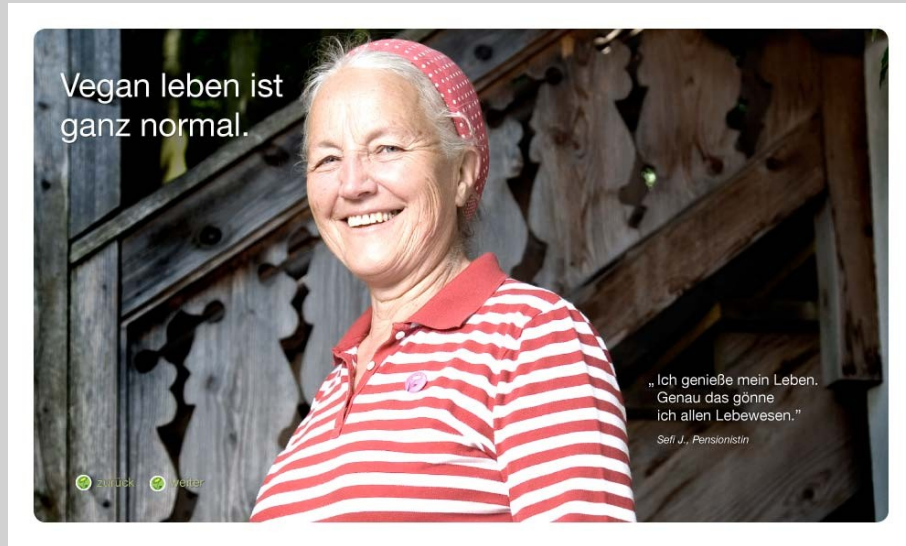
**Scandals (pig medication, avian flue, BSE) like media stunts have short lived effects!**



**→ we need supporting structures for interested people**

# How to build supporting structures?

- Availability of vegan alternatives
- Affordable price
- Vegan is normal
- Supporting groups
- Live veg#ism in all aspects of your life: political, science, arts, social, radio, TV, press, university, hobby, sports, law, economy, trade ...
- Form a social movement





# Option: future food

- **Tissue engineering animal products in vitro**
- **Cells from cell banks (different species)**
- **Take myoplasts (neither stem nor muscle cells)**
- **Rigid structure (scaffolds) to grow the cells on**
- **Chemical stretching exercises**
- **Microwave like machine to grow steak over night**
- **Fat and muscle content variable**
- **Technology ready → how to get on the market?**



# Advantages of tissue engineered animal products

- **No animal suffering**
- **Healthier (fat content)**
- **No environmental pollution**
- **No energy loss**



# www.futurefood.org





KULTIViertes FLEISCH

KURZER ÜBERBLICK

FÜR DIE WELT

FÜR UNS ALLE

PFLANZENFLEISCH

KULTIViertes FLEISCH

PFLANZLICHE MILCH

STATT EIPRODUKTEN

LEBENSMITTELINDUSTRIE

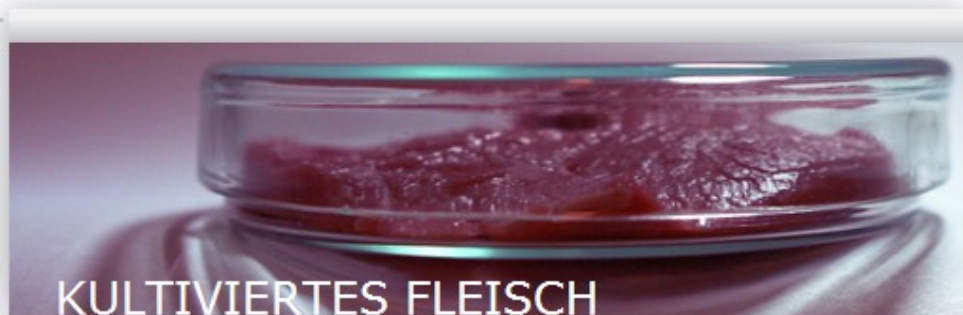
WISSENSCHAFT

NON PROFIT VEREINE

KONSUMENT(INN)EN

KONTAKT - ÜBER UNS

IMPRESSUM



## KULTIViertes FLEISCH

### IN-VITRO-FLEISCH; ERZEUGUNG VON FLEISCHPRODUKTEN VIA "TISSUE-ENGINEERING"-TECHNOLOGIEN

Im kultivierten Fleisch (=In-Vitro-Fleisch) liegt ein enormes finanzielles, ökologisches, gesundheitliches und tierleidfreies Zukunftspotential in unserer Ernährung. Die Idee: Tierisches Fleisch wird einfach ohne ein Tier erzeugt. Vom Tier stammen nur noch initial ganz wenige Ausgangszellen (die auch dem lebenden Organismus schmerzfrei entnommen werden können), danach wachsen und vermehren sich diese Zellen außerhalb von Tieren in Nährlösungen und könnten theoretisch den gesamten Weltfleischverbrauch abdecken. Das alles geschieht ohne Einsatz von Gentechnik, also ohne jeglichen Eingriff in die DNA-Sequenzen von Zellen.

Die etwas einfachere Aufgabe wird die Erzeugung verarbeiteter Fleischwaren sein, wie Würste, Nuggets oder Burger. Schwieriger wird die Erzeugung von Fleisch in der Originalkonsistenz, insbesondere eines In-Vitro-Steaks. Steak-Fleisch besteht aus Muskelfleisch durchzogen mit endlos langen, feinsten Äderchen zum Transport von Blut und Nährstoffen direkt zu den einzelnen Zellen. So etwas nachzubauen ist eine größere Herausforderung als die Erzeugung kleiner Zellbällchen, die dann zu größeren Zellbällchen und zu einem In-Vitro-Hühnernugget zusammengebaut werden.

Die wichtigste Herausforderungen, um geschmacklich und ökonomisch Tierfleisch übertreffen zu können sind:

#### Ausgangszellen:

Diese können z.B. dem lebenden Tier via Biopsie schmerzfrei entnommen werden. Die Frage ist aber: Welche Art von Zellen verwendet man?

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## When meat is not murder

Would you eat steak if it had been grown in a petri dish?

**Ian Sample, science correspondent**  
Saturday August 13, 2005  
[The Guardian](#)

Search this site  Go

It is the ultimate conundrum for vegetarians who think that meat is murder: a revolution in processed food that will see fresh meat grown from animal cells without a single cow, sheep or pig being killed.

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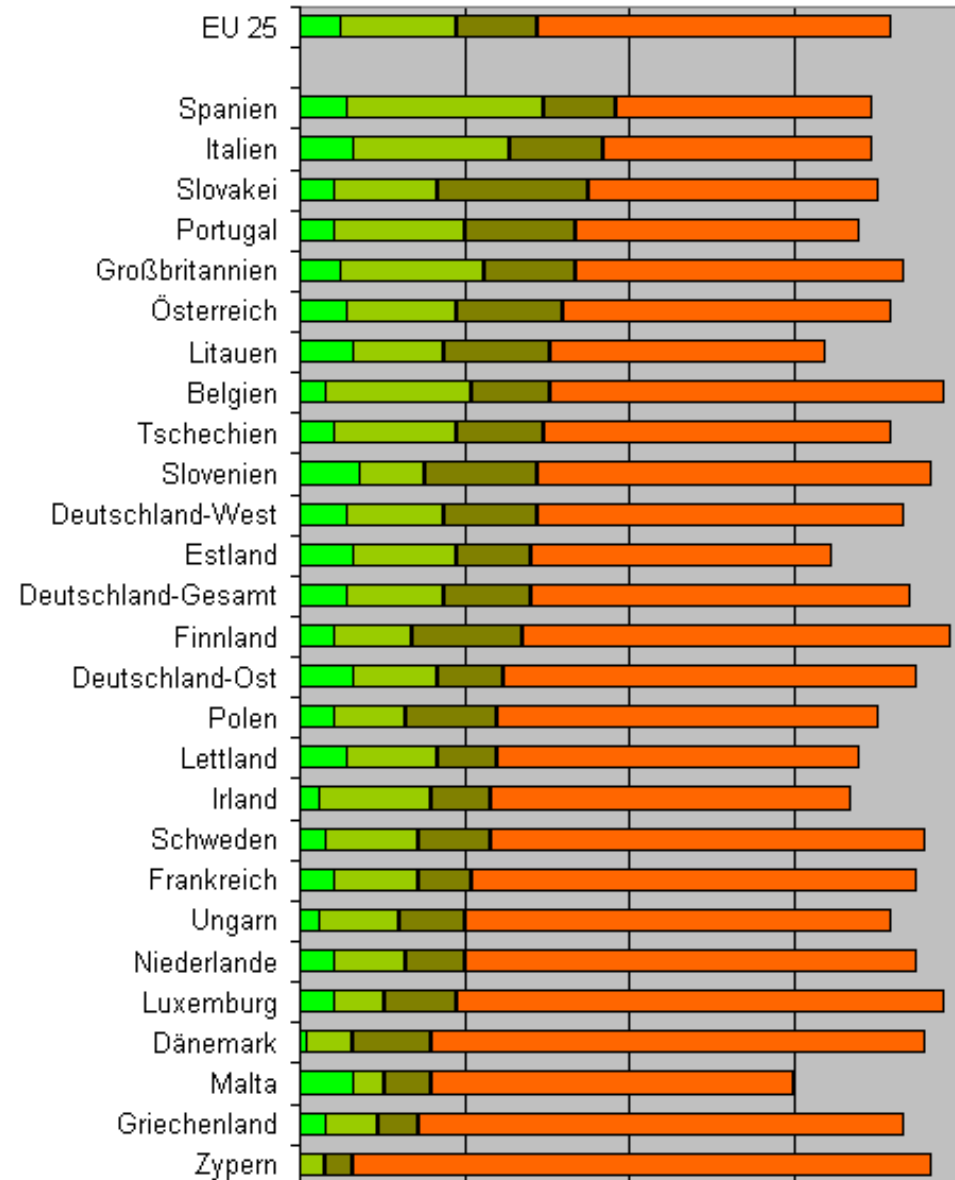
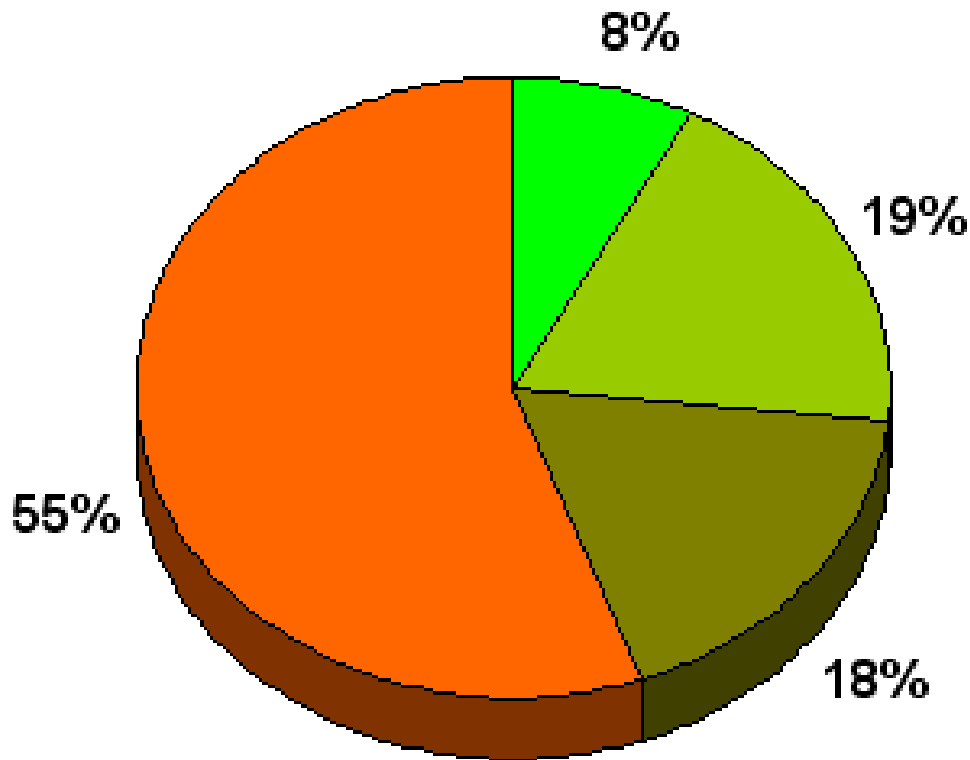
Researchers have published details in a biotechnology journal describing a new technique which they hailed as the answer to the world's food shortage. Lumps of meat would be cultured in laboratory vats rather than carved from livestock reared on a farm.

Article continues ▾

# Eurobarometer: future food

In welchem Ausmaß, wenn überhaupt, stimmen Sie der Technologie zu: "Gewinnung von Fleisch aus Zellkulture Nutztieren unnötig wird."

Antworten aus Österreich:





# Encouraging future prospects for tissue engineered meat

- **Men (who eat more meat) have less reservations than women**
- **Younger people more in favour than older**
- **Secular more than religious**
- **Educated more than less educated**
- **Urban more than country folk**
- **Environmentally conscious LESS than those, who care less about the environment!**