



BeneMeat

Prague | 8. 9. 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to draw your attention to a potentially far-reaching consequence of the proposed UK-EU SPS agreement. Uncertainty surrounding Britain's future approach to biotechnology is already causing companies such as ours to put investment, partnerships and commercial plans on hold.

We are BeneMeat, a Czech biotechnology company and a spin-off of BTL Industries, a global medical technology group. We are currently bringing into operation what we believe to be Europe's largest pilot facility for cultivated meat. We have developed the technology and industrial know-how required to move cell cultivation towards commercially viable production.

Our cultivated pet-food ingredient has already secured regulatory recognition in the UK. We have invested in the country, established a presence, built relationships with British businesses, submitted an application for authorisation of our cultivated meat as a novel food for human consumption, prepared controlled tastings and entered into discussions about the potential production of cultivated meat in Britain.

These were not speculative plans for a distant future. They were concrete steps towards bringing investment, technology, manufacturing expertise and new products to the United Kingdom. Today, however, further progress across all these areas is on hold as we and our prospective partners wait for clarity on whether Britain will retain the ability to develop its own regulatory pathway for biotechnologies.

Our concern extends far beyond one company or one product category. Cultivated meat is an early commercial application – and a practical gateway – to much broader capabilities in cell culture, bioprocessing, media development, automation and large-scale biological manufacturing. The same knowledge, infrastructure, equipment and skilled workforce can contribute to new drug discovery and development, medical research, tissue engineering,

regenerative medicine, advanced materials, agriculture and industrial biomanufacturing. Countries that build these capabilities through food production will strengthen their knowledge and industrial capacity across the wider bioeconomy.

For British manufacturers and retailers, this uncertainty means delayed partnerships, products and investment. For British consumers, it means a longer wait for new foods whose origin, composition and production conditions can be precisely controlled. For Britain, it creates a risk of losing companies, expertise and industrial opportunities that its previous commitment to innovation helped attract.

One of the central promises of Brexit was that Britain would regain control over its own rules and decisions and be able to move faster where its interests and technological progress justified it. Yet in biotechnology, particularly if a carve-out for novel foods cannot be negotiated, the proposed SPS agreement risks producing the opposite outcome: rules determined elsewhere, slower access to innovation and ultimately less choice for British consumers.

This is not an argument for reopening the debate about Brexit. It is an argument for preserving Britain's ability to make its own choices in precisely those areas where scientific and industrial progress is moving fastest.

It is no coincidence that the United States, China and the European Union all treat biotechnology as a matter of strategic economic and national importance. The countries that lead in biotechnology will not only develop new foods; they will also own the technologies, intellectual property, manufacturing capacity and skills underpinning many of tomorrow's industries.

We therefore ask you to ensure that any UK-EU SPS agreement preserves Britain's autonomy in biotechnology, including its ability to assess and authorise new products according to its own evidence, priorities and timetable. Cooperation with the European Union should make trade easier – it should not prevent Britain from deciding for itself how safe innovation can be developed and commercialised.

Britain has already built a valuable lead. Please preserve its freedom to decide – and its opportunity to keep that lead.

Yours sincerely,

BeneMeat