

Viewpoint: Italy's lab grown meat ban follows in path of science rejectionism across Europe

Italy's right-wing government provoked immediate controversy when it [proposed banning](#) the production of lab-grown meats to "safeguard our nation's heritage." The farm lobby cheered, scientists protested, and the conflict began to sound eerily akin to Europe's protracted battle over [genetically modified crops](#). I could only think: Here's another hugely promising technological frontier stymied by false claims and misguided public skepticism.

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Italy should do its part to support, not stigmatize, this industry. When the EU forbade GMO agriculture decades ago — with restrictions that remain in place today — it deterred crucial research. And look where this ban has gotten the EU today: Even Italy now imports vast amounts of GMO soy annually.

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What Italy's government seems to be missing is that it's climate change, more than any other factor, that's threatening Italy's food heritage, shifting what's possible to grow where: which wine grape can be produced in Tuscany for a good Chianti; which heritage-breed pigs can be raised in what regions for Prosciutto di Parma. We have entered an [era of disruption](#) and adaptation that is understandably painful for the food-nostalgic, but unavoidably necessary.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)