

European Citizens' Initiative – Stop vivisection

Article 13 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union states “the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals”. This official acknowledgement invokes a moral obligation to respect the fundamental rights of animals, which must be therefore recognized as a European Union priority and addressed through a coherent legal framework. In this light, imposing pain and suffering on sentient and defenceless beings through animal experimentation (or vivisection) is without any doubt an intolerable practice.

In addition to these clear ethical objections to animal experiments (which are shared by 86% of European citizens interviewed in the European Commission survey of 2006)¹, there are solid scientific principles that invalidate the “animal model” for predicting human response; indeed, statistical analysis provides empirical evidence in support of this position.

Animal experimentation can therefore be considered as:

- posing a danger to human health and the environment;
- constituting a hindrance to the development of new methods in biomedical research, based on the most recent scientific advances;
- posing an obstacle to tapping into much more reliable, relevant, cheaper and more efficient research methods, provided by new technologies expressly conceived for humans.

In consideration of the above, **we, the undersigned European citizens, urge the European Commission to abrogate directive 2010/63/EU “on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes” and put forward a new proposal aimed at phasing out the practice of animal experimentation, making compulsory the use - in biomedical and toxicological research - of data directly relevant for the human species.**

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/results_citizens.pdf (p. 5).