



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
 Consumer Affairs  
 Cosmetics and Medical devices

Brussels,  
 SANCO/B2/SL/pdw (2011)

Dear Petitioner,

**Subject : Reply to petitions and letters on animal testing and cosmetics**

Testing of cosmetic products and of ingredients for cosmetic products is already prohibited in the European Union by the Cosmetics Directive<sup>1</sup>. Also, cosmetic products that themselves or the ingredients of which have been tested on animals for the purposes of the Directive can not be placed on the EU market since 2009. Only a limited exemption exists for this marketing ban in relation to certain complex endpoints.

As a result of these provisions, a significant drop in terms of animal tests for the development of cosmetics has been observed. In 2008, the last year before the European testing ban entered into force, we had only 1.510 animals used for cosmetic testing. In comparison, in 2005 a total of 8.988 animals was used for cosmetics testing in the EU.

When the European Parliament and the Council adopted the longer implementation period until 2013 for certain endpoints, they did so because it was clear it will be very difficult to find alternative tests for these endpoints. The co-legislator tasked the Commission to report regularly on progress and compliance with the deadlines as well as possible technical difficulties in complying with the ban.

It is in this context that the Commission has recently reported to the European Parliament and the Council that full replacement of animal testing for the endpoints in question will not yet be available by 2013<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, alternative methods can not yet be relied on

for the safety assessment of cosmetics in all cases, event though important progress has been made.

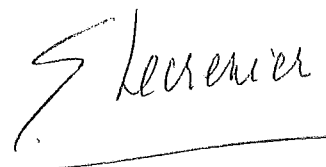
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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products, OJ L 262, 27.9.1976, p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> See: [http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/sectors/cosmetics/documents/animal-testing/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/sectors/cosmetics/documents/animal-testing/index_en.htm)

The Commission is currently analysing the various impacts that the implementation of the full marketing ban in 2013 would have. No decision has yet been taken in relation to a possible proposal on the implementation date. Discussions are ongoing with the different stakeholders.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Lecrenier', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sabine Lecrenier  
Head of Unit