



**Elke Anklam
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Introductory Session

Abstract.

Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues:

Welcome to the 2010 EPAA Conference – the 6th conference since its launch in 2005.

This year the focus is on the 2Rs, Reduction and Refinement: Combining Excellence in Science and Animal Welfare.

My name is Elke Anklam, and I am the Director of the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection of the Joint Research Centre – known as the JRC.

The JRC is also part of the European Commission and can be regarded as the EC's own laboratory.

My Institute is located in Ispra, Italy and plays a major role in the Commission's policy on alternative methods, in particular through the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods – known as ECVAM.

We are also active on areas such as nanotechnology, GMOs, and benefit/risk assessment of chemicals. As such, we are taking an active part in the EPAA.

Today, I replace my colleague Georgette Lalis, Director DG Enterprise and Industry, and co-chair of the EPAA Steering Committee.

As a consequence of a reorganisation in DG Enterprise, Georgette is on mission in China, something she could not foresee when we organised this Conference.

It is the first time she misses the EPAA Conference, and Georgette sends us her best regards and best wishes for a successful event.

I would also like to take this occasion to welcome you on behalf of my Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, in charge of Research, Innovation and Science. Mrs Geoghegan-

Quinn asks me to convey to you her strong commitment to our policy on alternative methods and to the EPAA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming now to the programme, I regret that we have to inform you that, unexpectedly, Mr Tajani had to leave for a meeting in London. At this moment in time, we can only inform you that we will put his intervention on the EPAA website.

In his intervention, Mr Tajani stated the commitment of the Commission to the EPAA as a policy instrument in our policy on animal welfare and innovation.

In his view, in the continuously evolving regulatory landscape, increasingly attention will be paid to alternative approaches. Therefore, in the coming years, there is definitely a role for the EPAA as a public private partnership on the promotion of alternatives as a means to comply with regulatory requirements.

Apart from the regulatory requirements, there are, in his view, strong scientific and economic incentives to promote alternative.

He also considers that all three 3Rs play their own specific role. Whilst Replacement remains the ultimate objective of our policy, we should not divert our attention of the great potential offered by reduction and Refinement strategies. Reduction and refinement strategies can lead to significant reductions on animals used in regulatory testing and reduce suffering. Mr Tajani therefore supports the actions and the attention given to Reduction and Refinement, the 2010 EPAA Lead Theme.

It was Mr Tajani who stated in the EPAA Newsletter that ""we need to explore the full potential of the virtuous circle of innovation resulting in better animal welfare, and animal welfare resulting in better science"

In his statement, Mr Tajani also draws attention to the importance of a dynamic and clear communication policy in this respect. Substantiating the impact of these 2Rs in terms of science, economic incentives and animal welfare, to policy makers, regulatory risk assessors and company structures should remain an important task for the EPAA.

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