



## **Animal Testing Directive 86/609**

### **What EuropaBio is asking for**

- To examine carefully the recommendations of the Commission for amending the legislation that regulates animal testing in Europe.
- To encourage a problem free passage of the Directive without drastic change to the current system

### **Purpose of this meeting**

To raise awareness of MEPs and Permanent Representatives on the upcoming revision to the Animal Testing Directive from the Commission and to ask for smooth facilitation of the Directive through the Parliament and Council.

### **Introduction**

The European Commission is expected to table its legislative proposal to amend the Animal Testing Directive 86/609 in April 2008. The Commission announced their intention to review the Animal Testing Directive in 2001 and the issue gained significant momentum from 2006, following a Commission Consultation on the Directive. As the Commission's deliberation time has been extensive and thoroughly researched, EuropaBio hopes that the resulting Directive will maintain a workable scheme that balance the needs of industry and academia with that of animal welfare.

EuropaBio is a founding member of the EPAA - the European Platform for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing, and fully supports the "3 Rs" (refine, reduce, replace animals in testing). We fully support an ongoing discussion on how to minimise animal suffering in testing and promote biotechnology as being at the cutting edge in delivering alternatives to animal testing. However, if the resulting Directive is more restrictive, it could have serious downstream effects for the research environment not just for the traditional large pharmaceutical companies, but also for academics, post-graduate students and SMEs. These effects would include: not being able to undertake vital and potentially life saving research, extra and unnecessary administrative burdens and inhibiting costs also affecting the competitiveness of European industry.

### **Recommendations**

Following potentially negative publicity within the Parliament, including an MEP petition concerning a ban on non-human primate testing in 2007, it is EuropaBio's hope that the Parliament and Council do not allow emotional arguments to block or hinder the Directive, which could result in significant consequences to scientific technological development in Europe.

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