



testing TIMES

Monthly Update on Animal Experimentation Issues in the EU from the ECEAE

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Welcome to the First Edition of *Testing Times*

Dear Friend,

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE) is Europe's leading alliance of animal protection organisations who have come together to campaign for an end to experimentation on animals. Formed in 1990 by animal organisations across Europe, the ECEAE now represents members from across the European Union, plus a variety of international partners, drawing together organisations with a range of legislative, scientific, political and campaigning expertise.

We oppose the use of animals for experimentation on scientific and ethical grounds, and are committed to using strictly peaceful means to end all animal experiments and promote modern, non-animal research techniques. The ECEAE believes that animal testing is a fundamentally flawed scientific methodology and that animals are entitled to a basic level of respect and compassion which animal experiments deny them.

The monthly publication of this new update is designed to provide you with key information and updates on the ECEAE's work and political, legislative and other developments in the field of animal experimentation at the European level.

Please let us know if you have any comments or thoughts on this publication or the issues contained herein.

Thanks and best wishes from the ECEAE!

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Progress on the REACH Chemicals Testing Programme

On December 13th 2005 in Brussels, the Competitiveness Council, under the UK Presidency, agreed a Council of Ministers common position on REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals), the proposed EU chemicals legislation. This was in response to the European Parliament's First Reading held in Strasbourg on November 17th. Many animal protection measures were successfully adopted in both votes. However, much more needs to be done to prevent the 'use' of at least 5 million animals.

Parliament and Council Texts

The ECEAE lobbied hard on some crucial issues including **mandatory data-sharing**, **scrutiny of test proposals**, the **development of alternatives** and clarification that **cosmetics testing is exempt**.

Mandatory sharing of existing data on chemicals will ensure that no animal tests are conducted where relevant information already exists. This provision

was strengthened in the European Parliament (EP) by the adoption of an 18-month deadline for the submission of data for “pre-registering” chemicals to provide adequate time to share all existing relevant data, although some inconsistent amendments were added which may weaken this benefit.

The Council kept the 18-month deadline and the mandatory sharing of animal testing data (but not other testing data), and also allowed for separate registration if it were at disproportionate cost, a cause for breach of confidentiality or where there is a disagreement between registrants on the selection of data. There is some confusion as to whether this will mean that registrants can, in fact, withhold animal test data that needs to be clarified in Second Reading.

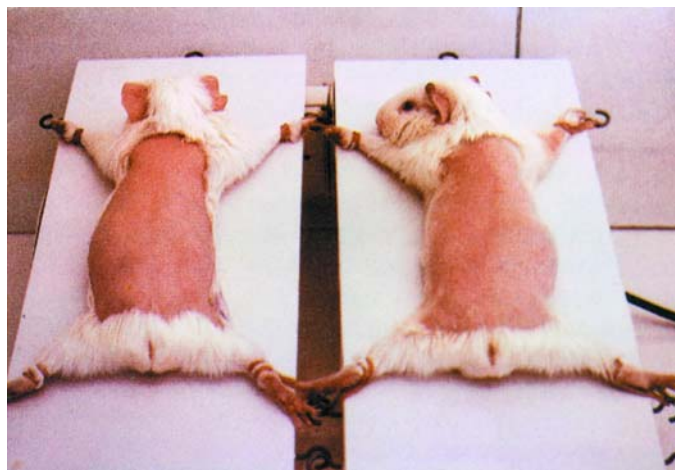
The EP backed the **scrutiny of test proposals**, ensuring that *all* testing proposals involving animal tests must be open for comment by stakeholders and that any decision regarding animal tests be taken in consultation with experts in the fields of alternative test methods, in particular ECVAM, the Commission’s centre for developing and validating non-animal test methods.

They also encouraged the **development of alternatives** by allocating part of the registration fee to research in this area, mandating the quick uptake of any alternative tests developed and setting up an alternatives advisory committee.

Despite claiming to be against animal testing, the Council did not support either of these initiatives, removing any consultation from the test proposals and offering little support within their amended text for the development of alternatives.

Concerns

At the moment the number of animals to be used under REACH is estimated at over 5 million. We welcome the substantial improvement of the texts of both the European Parliament and Council on the



Chemicals Testing on Household Guinea Pigs

Commission’s original proposal. However, we remain extremely concerned about amendments which could potentially allow exceptions from mandatory data-sharing and which could see more acute toxicity tests performed on animals. We are also keen to ensure that animal testing for cosmetic ingredients remains exempted from the proposal. Our objective, of course, remains the complete elimination of animal testing from the proposals.

What Next?

The REACH text will now go to the Council of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) which will rubber stamp the Council’s position this spring, after which it will go back to the European Parliament for Second Reading (probably just after the summer recess). This timetable is subject to change.

EU Presidency Priorities

We urge the Austrian Presidency to support the mandatory sharing of all data, the scrutiny of test proposals by ECVAM and animal welfare and other expert stakeholders, and clarification that cosmetics are exempt. We also urge the Presidency to do all it can to promote the development and use of non-animal testing methods.

Primate Mistreatment at Covance Laboratories

Background

Following an undercover investigation carried out at Covance laboratories in Germany between March and July 2003, the BUAV/ECEAE submitted an official complaint to the European Commission in July 2004 over the failure of the German government to uphold European law concerning the treatment of animals in laboratories contained in Directive 86/609.

Among other things, the complaint argued that:

- Primates were sometimes kept in cages that were smaller than the minimum requirements, sometimes by over 50%
- There was physical and psychological abuse of primates by staff.
- Primates were sometimes housed on their own, when a commission report in 2002 states that ‘...having social partners is one of the most significant needs of primates...’ and the directive states that all experimental animals are to be provided with housing and an environment ‘...appropriate to their health and well-being.’
- The post-operative care was insufficient.

Update

The Commission initially indicated that it was minded to reject the complaint, for example claiming that our video did not show sufficient evidence of mistreatment of animals, despite graphic and irrefutable evidence to the contrary in addition to testimony by eminent academics. However, at the end of December 2005 the Commission finally agreed to properly investigate our claims and has contacted the German government who will now provide a written response.

To view our video footage of primate mistreatment at Covance and make up your own mind, please [click here](#).



Mistreatment of animals was witnessed by our undercover investigator

The EU budget and the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development

A compromise budget was finally agreed in the dying days of the UK Presidency at the end of 2005. Within it contained the budget for the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), the EU's chief instrument for funding scientific research and technological development from the period running from 2007 to 2013. Although less significant than the UK's original proposal, the FP7 still secured a 75% increase in funding in real terms by 2013 compared to 2006. The budget will now go to the European Parliament where it is expected that the FP7 allocation will be increased.

Funding Research into Alternatives to Animal Testing

Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik stated in December 2005 that he will establish a group to provide the Spring Council in 2006 with recommendations on research investment priorities. Within this it is important that funding for alternatives to animal testing is in place. There is insufficient incentive at the moment for companies to invest substantial resources into researching alternatives when they are able to continue testing

on animals. Therefore it is important for government to provide funds and impetus for the development and use of alternatives to animals.

Endocrine Disruptors – ECEAE Report Rejected

In 2004 the BUAV, together with Dr. Caroline Lucas MEP, published the report 'Endocrine disrupting chemicals: A non-animal testing approach'. The European Commission sent it for evaluation and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) finally responded at the end of November 2005. Their Opinion contains gross errors and was largely cut-and-pasted from an earlier response that SCHER's predecessor, the CSTE, gave to a previous BUAV paper.

Dr. Langley, author of the BUAV report, will be providing a formal response to the SCHER claims shortly. The potential for animal testing for endocrine disruption in the future is enormous and could mean a huge loss of animal life. We must ensure that this doesn't happen by investing in appropriate risk assessment and management measures, as well as in non-animal alternatives.

Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals

On 23rd January, the European Commission published their Animal Welfare Action Plan, aimed at improving the protection and welfare of animals over the next five years. It states that further research and support should be ensured to foster the 3Rs (reduction, refinement, replacement) principle. This is somewhat ironic given their lack of support for this in the REACH proposals. While the ECEAE is against all animal testing, supporting just the 1R (Replacement), real action from the Commission in this area would be welcomed.

The ECEAE would like to thank David Martin, Neil Parish and Caroline Lucas for their invaluable support.

Who We Are

The Chair group of the Coalition is the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV)

Current Member groups of the European Coalition are as follows:

[ADDA \(Spain\)](#)
[AGSTG \(Switzerland\)](#)
[Animal \(Portugal\)](#)
[Animal Friends Croatia \(Croatia\)](#)
[Animal Rights Sweden \(Sweden\)](#)
[Animalia \(Finland\)](#)
[BUAV \(UK\)](#)
[DeutscherTierschutzbund \(Germany\)](#)
[Dyrevernalliansen \(Norway\)](#)
[EDEV \(Netherlands\)](#)
[Forsøgsdyrenes Værn \(Denmark\)](#)
[GAIA \(Belgium\)](#)
[Irish Anti-Vivisection Society \(Ireland\)](#)
[LAV \(Italy\)](#)
[One Voice \(France\)](#)
[People for Animal Rights \(Germany\)](#)
[SSPA \(Switzerland\)](#)
[Vier Pfoten \(Austria\)](#)

International Partner Organisations:

Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC) (USA)
Eurogroup for Animal Welfare (EU)

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or one of our member organisations in your country.

The ECEAE would also like to thank ECVAM for their advocacy of alternatives to animal experimentation.