

## **PROTECTION OF RESEARCH ANIMALS**

More than 11 million animals are used annually in the 28 Member States (based on a Commission report from 2013) for a variety of purposes including safety testing of different substances - medicines, cosmetics, household products and chemicals - and for medical research into human diseases and conditions. Not only testing but also the way the animals are kept from birth, before and during the procedures and housing conditions can cause considerable stress and suffering.

### **BACKGROUND**

Rodents are by far the most used species followed by cold-blooded animals then birds, the least used include horses, donkeys, pigs, goats, sheep, cattle and non-human primates. Nearly two-thirds of these animals are used in research and development for human medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and in biology education. Production and quality control of products and devices in human and veterinary medicine required the use of around 15% of the total number of animals used for experimental purposes, while toxicological and other safety evaluations represented 8% of this total. Overall, the number of animals used in testing has remained high in the EU since the Commission started producing statistical reports in 1996. The next statistical report of the Commission will be based on the new requirements and scope of Directive 2010/63/EU. Here we may well see an increase in the actual number of animals used.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Directive 86/609/EEC, on the protection of animals used for experiments and other scientific purposes was revised by Directive 2010/63/EU which entered into force on the 9th November 2010. Member States were to transpose the new directive into their law by 10 November 2012. In January 2015 finally all Member States had completed the transposition process. Aided by the work of Eurogroup it now includes a stronger focus on alternative methods, stricter authorisation, inspections and specific protection for non-human primates. The Commission is aiding member states through development of guidance documents.

### **OUR OBJECTIVES**

- Member States to apply the Directive correctly, to reduce the numbers of animals used and levels of suffering.
- The ultimate goal should be to replace all animal experiments with alternative methods.
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- EU institutions and Member States must show a commitment to the development and validation of alternative methods.
- Animals to be recognised as sentient beings instead of objects for research.
- All animal experiments must be subject to a strict, transparent control and inspection.

## RELATED LINKS

- [European Commission website on Animals used for scientific purposes](#)
- [Directive 2010/63 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes \(applies from January 2013\)](#)
- [Directive 86/609 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes \(applies until 1 January 2013\)](#)
- [Guidance documents on implementation of Directive 2010/63 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes](#)
- [Eurogroup full briefing for implementation of directive 63/2010/EU](#)
- [Eurogroup briefing on 3RS for implementation of directive 63/2010/EU](#)
- [Eurogroup briefing on non-human primates for implementation of directive 63/2010/EU](#)