

“Protection of people and our environment through NAMs”



Mirror Group Perspective

1

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The Mirror Group

2

- Consists of **representatives of civil society**
- Reflects views of **academia, animal research organisations, animal welfare organisations and politician**
- Members act on a **personal capacity**, based on expertise
- Acts as a consultation forum in an **advisory capacity** to the Steering Committee for the implementation of the action programme and EPAA's projects
- Adds a **broader societal perspective** to EPAA's work
- **Quarterly meetings** with the Steering Committee

Mirror Group Members



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EPAA's task (from brochure "15 years EPAA"):

4

"EPAA promotes alternatives to animal testing in priority areas where research gaps need to be identified and to overcome acceptance barriers"

"...facilitates research and development of new alternative methods to address technology gaps and promote innovative approaches to regulatory safety testing, particularly repeated-dose toxicity"

"...builds coalitions and synergies to accelerate the adoption of non-animal NAMs"

"... hosts workshops, provides recommendations and publications, financial and organizational support for expert meetings"

Chemicals Strategy: current situation

- Revision of the EU framework for the authorisation of chemicals has been delayed
- Proposed changes could increase animal testing by millions
- Stronger focus on neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity and endocrine disruption
- Extension of the one-generation study by two cohorts for immunotoxicology and DNT studies discussed

5



These are many and varied!

- Who is responsible for method **validation**?
- EURL ECVAM's **financial resources** are **unlikely** to be **sufficient** for the validation authority's now very extensive range of tasks
- **Redistribution of financial resources** from other projects?
- European Commission funding, Horizon Europe?
- Plans to **abandon** the extensive, **long-lasting validation process**?
- Can methods undergo a different **qualification system** to that currently used?

DNT testing batterie: first OECD recommendation

7

- OECD TG 426 on DNT has **hardly been used**
- **New IVB** investigates changes in a number of important DNT processes at cellular level
- **2016**: Consensus, that IVB can be used for **screening and prioritization**
- > Currently **animal cells** are considered instead of human cells.
- > **Extension of IVB urgently required** to investigate e.g. disruption of the hormone and immune system, and create full replacement method.

No budget for reproductive toxicology

8



- Non-animal NAMs for tests of **reproductive toxicity** has **not** yet been sufficiently **addressed**
- comparatively **large number of animals** are used in this area
- Currently **no additional budget** in sight for the development of replacement methods

Role model: PEPPER

- **Public-Private-Partnership** between Industry and government on national level (50:50)
- **Organizes and finances pre-validation** to ensure sufficient quality of developed methods
- **Methods and assays for ED testing**
- **Evidence for international regulatory authorities**



Validation funding or another qualification system?

10



60 million euros

400 million euros

Overlapping
task?

Thank you for your attention!

11



EPAA Mirror Group