



European Commission



Commission's response to the European citizens' initiative

SAVE CRUELTY-FREE COSMETICS - COMMIT TO A EUROPE WITHOUT ANIMAL TESTING

July 2023

#EUTakeTheInitiative



European Citizens' Initiative

The number of European citizens' initiatives that have successfully reached the required number of support statements for the Commission to provide a reply continues to grow. This is the ninth successful citizens' initiative. Some have resulted in new legislation, while others have had other meaningful results, for example launching an impact assessment or ensuring that legislative proposals that already respond to the initiative's objectives are swiftly adopted and implemented across the EU. All of them have built networks around issues and raised awareness among both citizens and policymakers.

ORGANISERS' GOALS

Strengthen the cosmetics animal testing ban, transform chemical regulations, and modernise science through legislative changes that:

ensure all cosmetic ingredients are not tested on animals for any purpose at any time

secure chemicals' management without the addition of new animal testing requirements

commit to a roadmap to phase out all animal testing in the EU before the end of the current legislative term



ENGAGEMENT

1,217,916 signatories from 27 EU Member States.



COMMISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

The Commission is proposing the following actions in response to the objectives of the citizens' initiative:

- ▶ continue to **apply and enforce the animal testing ban** in the framework of the EU Cosmetics Regulation;
- ▶ consider the need for legislative changes to further **clarify the interface between the EU Cosmetics and REACH Regulations** based on the outcome of an ongoing judicial review;
- ▶ kick off work on a roadmap **towards replacing animal testing in chemical safety assessments**, with multiple actions and a step-by-step path to replacing animal testing, involving all relevant stakeholders;
- ▶ initiate a series of actions to accelerate the reduction of **animal testing in research, education and training**, including exploratory workshops, and sustaining new training initiatives for early career scientists;
- ▶ continue to support research on alternatives to animal testing with **EU funding**.

TIMELINE



ANIMAL TESTING IN EUROPE

Animal testing has played an important role for the assessments of risks from chemicals to human health or the environment as well as for the assessment of medicines or research and education.



Animal testing decreased across the EU from **8.8 million** animals in 2018, to **8.5 million** in 2019 and **7.9 million** animals in 2020.



17% of animal tests take place for regulatory purposes; among which **75%** are used for approving human and veterinary medicines.



72% of all animal tests are used for research purposes.



EU'S COMMITMENT TO REPLACING, REDUCING OR REFINING ANIMAL TESTING

The Commission has been working to support research and innovation in non-animal testing and to promote alternative testing approaches.

- ▶ The Commission has invested **€1 billion** into over 300 research projects related to alternatives to animal testing during the last 20 years.
- ▶ The **EU Reference Laboratory** (EURL ECVAM) was set up as part of the Commission's Joint Research Centre to work on, promote and facilitate alternatives to animal testing in EU research.



CURRENT LEGISLATION

The EU already ensures strong protection of animal welfare across all its policies. It also explicitly bans the use of animal testing in the framework of the EU's Cosmetics Regulation and introduces provisions to replace, reduce and refine testing on animals for regulatory purposes where possible.



Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: as sentient beings, full regard should be paid to animals' welfare requirements.



EU Cosmetics Regulation: in place since 2013, it provides the most advanced protection against animal testing by banning the placing on the market of cosmetics products that have been tested on animals.



EU Chemicals Regulation (REACH): stipulates that animal testing is to be used as a last resort when registering specific chemicals; requiring vertebrate animal tests to be replaced by using alternative methods whenever possible.



EU Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes: sets strict rules and conditions on how animal testing can be carried out where still necessary, with a goal of fully phasing out all animal use in research and for regulatory purposes in the EU.



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