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## Press statement: European bureaucracy responsible for more needless animal deaths

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The European Commission has failed to embrace new test methods that reduce, refine and replace animal use into the Test Method Regulation (TMR) and the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation Annexes, even though those methods have been accepted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which publishes internationally agreed upon test methods and methods recommended by EURL ECVAM, the PETA International Science Consortium, Ltd. charged in a detailed letter sent today to Antonio Tajani, Vice President of the EC and Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment. This painstaking approach to adopting alternative methods has likely led to animals being used in testing that could otherwise have been avoided.

These nonanimal methods include tests for skin and eye irritation and corrosion as well as strategies to minimise animal use for skin sensitisation, acute, genetic and reproductive toxicity.

The Science Consortium is asking that the TMR and REACH Annexes be urgently updated with the most current OECD test guidelines and methods recommended by EURL ECVAM while requirements for obsolete animal tests be removed. At present, the intolerable lag between the validation and acceptance of new methods and their integration into the TMR and REACH Annexes means that the legal requirement to use animals only as a last resort is not being followed. The Consortium also urges the Commission to ensure that ECHA update and consolidate its guidance and provide more useful materials to help avoid animal testing wherever possible.

States Jessica Sandler, director of the PETA International Science Consortium, Ltd., “In a testing program that is expected to consume more than 50 million animals and which constitutes the largest animal testing programme in history, it is unconscionable that animals are dying as a result of a bureaucratic failure to update testing guidelines.”

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