Question for written answer E-006155/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Preclinical animal research

On 30 May 2014 the British Medical Journal published an article that confirmed the need to abandon the animal research model. The United States, meanwhile, is becoming more receptive to the need to adopt alternative methods and the three major U.S. agencies, the NIEHS, NHGRI and EPA, are working to implement the programme set out in the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) report 'Toxicity testing in the 21st century'.

On the contrary, however, the REACH project, if based on traditional preclinical animal testing, will increase to 100 years the period required for the completion of safety tests on substances designed for human beings and the environment.

Some 1 300 000 EU citizens have signed up to the Stop Vivisection initiative, in the awareness that funding for preclinical research on animals is not only controversial, but also counter-productive.

Animal welfare, moreover, is a value of the European Union enshrined in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Given the above:

– Have any measures been taken to redirect funds for biomedical research towards projects that do not use animals in any way?

– Would it not be advisable to establish, on the basis of the data available so far, a register of toxicity testing methods that are scientifically valid alternatives to animal testing, with a view to moving beyond such testing?