

**Question for written answer E-007336/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Experiments on animals

Directive 2010/63/EU of 22 September 2010 lays down that experiments should not be carried out on animals where alternatives exist, and stresses that research should be carried out into developing alternatives that can bring the EU closer to not using animal experiments at all. In this connection, I am aware that many steps have been taken towards better conditions for experimental animals, such as banning animal experiments for cosmetics, detergents, etc. However, this still raises the question of whether the next step will be to ban animal experiments for the testing of substances in household products.

The above-mentioned directive still uses a classification of legal animal experiments including 'severe'. The 'severe' category is intended, as far as I know, to cover electric shocks, experiments leading to complete exhaustion, etc. The directive also aims at an ongoing reduction in the number of animal experiments.

Can the Commission therefore please answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission still aim to ban experiments on animals for the testing of substances in household products, and when does it think this aim can be achieved?
2. Is the phasing-out of animal experiments a general priority under Horizon 2020?
3. What initiatives does the Commission propose to take to limit, or render completely superfluous, permitted experiments in the 'severe' category?