

**Question for written answer E-010661/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Possible alternatives to animal testing

As the Commission's Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Jyrki Katainen, has stressed, the number of animal experiments in the EU is in steep decline. In his view, however, a complete ban on animal research in the EU would be premature and would run the risk of biomedical research being relocated to non-EU countries. It is argued in part that we will remain dependent on animal experiments in the medium term in order to maintain our standards of health protection. Against this, animal rights campaigners point to the high levels of stress and pain endured by the animals in the tests.

Given the above, and ahead of the upcoming amendment of the animal testing legislation, the following questions arise:

1. Other than the current known alternatives, no alternative proposal is more efficient than animal testing. What other possibilities is the Commission considering with a view towards abolishing animal testing in the long term?
2. If animal testing is permanently abolished, would the Commission tolerate exceptions? If so, to what extent could it continue to take place?
3. Does the Commission believe that a possible solution would be a general ban on animal testing with the possibility of individual permits in special exceptional cases, such as for research into Parkinson's disease?