

**Question for written answer E-006382/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Use of monkeys in scientific research

On 10 November 2017, the Commission will re-examine Directive 2010/63/EU, in particular where it relates to the use of non-human primates ('primates') in research.

The directive has already restricted their use to research for the purposes of 'avoidance, diagnosis, prevention or treatment of life-threatening or debilitating clinical conditions in human beings'.

Each year, some 100 000 primates are used in research – 6012 of them in the EU (2011).

The practice is apparently indispensable, in particular in combating certain infectious diseases (HIV, malaria and hepatitis C). The Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks has expressed the view that this kind of research must be continued (13 January 2009).

Nonetheless, it poses a number of issues:

- Laboratory conditions are often inadequate, causing the primates to develop behavioural problems;
 - Most primates are imported, and their breeding and transport conditions cannot be monitored;
 - The practice could cause a decline in wild population sizes, in particular in the case of the crab-eating macaque, which has so far been evaluated as 'least concern' by the IUCN.
1. Is the Commission planning to regulate the trade of primates for scientific purposes, in particular the monitoring of breeding and transport conditions?
 2. Is it planning to impose further restrictions on these tests, or even ban them outright?