Question for written answer E-007356/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: SCHEER opinion on the use of non-human primates in biomedical research

The 2017 update to the 2009 Opinion on the need for non-human primates (NHPs) in biomedical research by the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) makes several recommendations, including the following:

R05: 'With regard to transgenic techniques (e.g., CRISPR) in NHPs, the SCHEER recommends that the European Commission form a working group to assess the scientific and ethical implications of such research to determine if it should be allowed in the EU and, if so, within what constraints'.

R06: 'Conduct systematic reviews in all areas of NHP research, where possible, to conclude on its value, translational relevance and necessity in the context of alternative approaches. Cross-company and cross-sector data sharing would be a path forward for this type of retrospective assessment of NHP studies'.

Will the Commission provide information on when and how recommendation R05 is to be acted upon, and can it confirm that sufficient resources will be made available to ensure completion within a reasonable timeframe?

With reference to R06, what are the Commission's plans regarding initiation of the retrospective assessment of NHP studies described by SCHEER?