

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Robert Evans, Paulo Casaca, David Martin, Sajjad Karim and Carl Schlyter
on primates in scientific experiments

Lapse date: 18.1.2007

Written declaration on primates in scientific experiments

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas Protocol No 33 to the EC Treaty states that 'the Community and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals' in formulating the Community's research policy,
 - B. noting that the Berlin Declaration, signed by over 200 international animal protection organisations, scientists, public figures and parliamentarians, calls for: '...an immediate, internationally coordinated effort to bring all non-human primate experiments to an end',
 - C. noting that primates have a high level of intelligence, being the closest relative to humans, with certain species such as chimpanzees sharing 98% of human DNA,
 - D. noting that International Primate Day 2006, organised by Animal Defenders International, is aimed at raising awareness worldwide about the hazards faced by non-human primates; and whereas the very existence of primates is being threatened by the bushmeat, laboratory, entertainment and pet trades,
1. Urges the Commission to propose an end to all non-human primate experiments in the revision process of Directive 86/609 EC on the use of animals in scientific procedures, specifically: to prohibit chimpanzee experiments and the use of wild-caught primates in the EU and phase out all non-human primate experiments in the EU over the next six years;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.