

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2673/09
by Daniel Caspary (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Regulation of animal experiments through the European Cosmetics Directive and the REACH Regulation

On 25 February 2009, the Commission replied to my parliamentary question on the regulation of animal experiments through the European Cosmetics Directive (76/768/EEC¹) and the REACH Regulation (1907/2006²) (E-6806/08). From this reply, the following question arises:

A reading of the publicly available minutes of the AHWP (Ad Hoc Working Party) on the Cosmetics Directive shows that a Member State or the European Consumers' Organisation BEUC frequently calls into question the safety of a specific ingredient. As a rule, a scientific advisory committee is then asked by the Commission to examine the file on this substance (usually provided by the raw material manufacturers). This often results in requests for supplementary data which usually have to be obtained through animal testing (for example, parabens and other preservatives).

However, after 11 March 2009, the Commission will no longer be able to ask for animal experiments once they have been banned.

Will this circumstance contribute to faster acceptance of alternative methods?

¹ OJ L 262, 27.9.1976, p. 169.

² OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1.