Question for written answer  E-002505/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Animal experiments: non-EU testing

According to the 2019 report on the statistics on the use of animals for scientific purposes in the Member States of the European Union in 2015-2017 published on 5 February 2020, a total of 82,895 tests were conducted to satisfy the requirements of non-EU legislation, including 20,868 tests on rabbits (20% of all regulatory tests were carried out on rabbits during that period), 5,180 on guinea pigs, 46 on dogs and 45 on primates.

Could the Commission confirm whether any of the tests using rabbits were pyrogenicity, skin irritation or eye irritation tests for which non-animal alternatives are available in the EU?

Could it explain why animals are being used for non-EU legislative purposes where an alternative method is recognised in EU legislation and what it is doing to prevent this from happening?