

**Question for written answer E-004587/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Long-awaited compliance with the Three Rs principle in animal testing

In the journal *Plos One*¹, German scientists report on their experiment in which 142 macaques, mostly babies aged between 10 months and 3 years, were exposed to high-dose irradiation.

The 60 surviving macaques were euthanised 60 days after irradiation, having suffered all manner of radiation-related pathologies: mouth ulcers, diarrhoea, wounds, anorexia, respiratory distress, blood loss, epilepsy, etc.

The association One Voice² has rightfully condemned a new violation of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, which requires laboratories to uphold the Three Rs principle (replacement, reduction, refinement).

In this particular case, all three principles have been violated:

The replacement principle, as the scientists state in their article that the effects of irradiation are already known. The experiment therefore contributes nothing to science;

The reduction principle, as the use of 142 animals was completely disproportionate for the purpose of this experiment;

Lastly, the refinement principle, as using young animals has not been recommended as a way to keep pain levels low.

With a view to ending abuse of this kind, will the Commission finally pay heed to the calls for the current directive to be reformed?

Supporter³

¹ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8294544/pdf/pone.0254344.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3LXrm_tWEL-SaQ8XcU4NtCY2MfKKh68OMB1UMzh4RFEkKsK683fBjPrIE

² <https://one-voice.fr/fr/blog/142-macaques-irradies-un-chercheur-sous-le-choc.html>

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