

**Question for written answer E-000003/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Recognition of the right to conscientious objection to animal testing

In Italian law, Law No 413 of 12 October 1993 recognises the right to conscientious objection to animal testing for all scientific actors. Universities are thereby required to offer objectors teaching methods that do not involve animal testing, which promotes the development of alternative teaching methods.

In France, animal welfare organisations (such as the Brigitte Bardot Foundation) are demanding the right to conscientious objection.

Recently, seven students from the University of Strasbourg's Faculty of Life Sciences refused to participate in an experiment on live hamsters (making an incision, inserting a probe and then euthanising the hamsters), referring in particular to their animal welfare beliefs.

The students ultimately received support from their faculty, which felt that it was time to put an end to certain practical work involving animals. This decision tacitly recognises conscientious objection to experiments on animals at a French university.

In light of these circumstances and the development of alternative methods, would the Commission consider including such a conscientious objection in its Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes?

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