Question for oral answer O-000042/2021 to the Commission

Rule 136

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Subject: Plans and actions to accelerate a transition to innovation without the use of animals in research, regulatory testing and education

Since 1993, the European Union has made clear its commitment to proactively reduce and replace the use of animals in science\(^1\). Despite this, the number of animals used for scientific purposes has decreased only very slowly. Although Directive 2010/63/EU lays down basic rules on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, it is not a strategy for the reduction and replacement of these animals.

In the light of the European Green Deal, Next Generation EU, and the health and environmental challenges we face, as well as growing public concern about the use of animals in experiments, it is essential that the EU acts to accelerate the transition from a reliance on the outdated animal-based model to modern, human-relevant, non-animal science in the areas of research, regulatory testing and education.

1. What sector-specific plans does the Commission have to end the dependence on the use of animals, identifying innovative human-relevant models as the way forward for tackling human diseases?

2. What multi-disciplinary and synergistic plans does the Commission have to end the reliance on the use of animals across all policy areas?

3. Will the Commission produce a comprehensive action plan with proposals and targets for phasing out the reliance on the use of animals in research, regulatory testing and education in the EU?

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\(^1\) Towards sustainability: A European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development, OJ C 138, 17.5.1993, p. 5.