Priority question for written answer P-004122/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Allowing the EMA and the ECHA to approve alternative methods to replace animal testing

Whether medications are intend for human or veterinary use, they are systematically tested on animals. Without such testing, labs cannot get their coveted authorisation to sell these drugs on the market. The same applies to chemical products, with the exception of cosmetics.

Considerable progress has, however, been made in life sciences. There are now numerous methods that allow for reliable tests which could ultimately replace animal testing.

Toxicogenomic studies facilitate the assessment of the toxicological impact of chemical substances, including medications, on genes. To do so, a variety of cells grown in vitro are used (cerebral, renal, hepatic, pancreatic, etc.). The chemical substances' effects are investigated at different concentrations and durations, allowing researchers to observe what changes are produced in these cells.

Considering this scientific progress, would the Commission be in favour of the European Medicines Association (EMA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), acting within their respective domains, approving alternative methods to replace animal testing, limiting such alternatives, if needs be, to well-defined categories of substances?

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