

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
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Mr Geert Dancet
Executive Director, European Chemicals Agency
Annankatu 18
PO Box 400
00121 Helsinki
Finland

Via email: executive-director@echa.europa.eu

Dear Mr Dancet,

It is estimated that upwards of 13 million animals will suffer and die in experiments conducted for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) programme. But the legislation is clear: alternative testing methods to animals must be used whenever possible, and testing on animals must be undertaken only as a last resort.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) have a poor track record of ensuring that companies use non-animal testing methods wherever possible. Following a complaint submitted by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Foundation, the European Ombudsman directed ECHA to verify that tests are conducted on animals only as a last resort and to inform member states of all possible breaches of the last-resort principle.

In order to minimise the number of animals used – as you are required to do by law – we urge you to address the Ombudsman's concerns over PETA's complaint and take corrective action without delay by following PETA's suggestions.

ECHA must do the following:

- Implement with expediency and announce publicly all mechanisms to be used to verify that non-animal methods are used wherever possible.
- Conduct targeted compliance checks to assess whether avoidable tests on animals have been conducted.
- Inform member states of all possible breaches of the last-resort principle and publicly disclose why these breaches continue to occur.
- Notify registrants of their legal obligations to minimise animal testing and the consequences of non-compliance.

Sincerely,

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Lacon House, Theobald's Road,
London WC1X 8RW.
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