

You can respond to the petition to ban research involving animals across Europe

The European Commission and Parliament will hold a hearing before 3 June 2015 to consider the 'Stop Vivisection' Citizen's Initiative.

If accepted this would repeal the current legislation (European Directive 2010/63/EU) on the protection of animals used for scientific procedures, and the use of animals in research would be banned across Europe.

We believe that repealing the current legislation and banning research involving animals would represent a major step backwards both for animal welfare in the EU and for Europe's leading role in advancing human and animal health.

You can get involved by writing to your MEPs to explain how and why your research involves animals, and why you oppose the 'Stop Vivisection' petition.

Get involved - approaching your MEPS

You can find out who your MEPs are here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/map.html>
Your constituency is probably represented by a number of MEPs.

This site allows you to link through to each MEP's personal page, where their contact details will be listed.

You can contact your MEPs by email, post or telephone. For post or telephone, it is normally advisable to contact their Brussels office.

Tips for writing to your MEP

- Letters should contain your address so the MEP can check you are in their constituency.
- Be mindful that most MEPs do not have a scientific or research background.
- Letters should not exceed 1 page of A4 paper. Keep it brief and clear. Stick to the point.
- Include a subject line at the start of your letter with the key message / request in one sentence. For example: **Re: Support European Directive 01234/56/78**
- Begin your letter by saying who you are, why you are writing to them and why it is important to you.
- Explain in simple terms your research and the impact you hope it will ultimately have on human / animal health.
- Explain how and why your research involves using animals. You could give some information on how you ensure high animal welfare.
- Explain how the current European legislation has had an impact. For example, how this legislation has benefited your research, or provided clear guidance to ensure high standards of welfare. Explain how you embed the '3Rs' in your research. Give examples.
- Explain why you oppose the 'Stop Vivisection' petition. Explain what impact a roll-back of this legislation, or a total ban of research involving animals, would have on your research and the area of research you work in.
- Briefly elaborate on the key message in your subject line. Be clear and specific about what you are asking for. For example: *"I hope that you will consider attending this important European Parliament hearing to represent my views"*

- Offer to discuss further. You could consider inviting the MEP to meet with you or to visit your research lab and the animal facilities.

More information and resources to support you and to share with MEPs:
www.wellcome.ac.uk/euanimals