



**INTERGROUP
ON THE WELFARE
& CONSERVATION
OF ANIMALS**

PRESS RELEASE

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Intergroup welcomes plans to update animal experimentation directive

The European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare & Conservation of Animals has welcomed the publication of Commission plans to revise the current directive regulating animals used in tests and research. This group of European parliamentarians who care about animal welfare approves of many of the improvements contained in the draft, but warned that much still needed to be done to improve it.

Neil Parish, president of the Intergroup, said: "We are glad that the Commission has finally released its plans to revise current legislation on animal testing as it was long overdue. The current law has been left unchanged since 1986 and there has been much scientific research and many technological innovations since then.

"Parliament has always shown it cares about animals, and again MEPs will do their best to improve this draft as much as possible. We hope to complete a first reading before the Parliament breaks up as this is something that will affect thousands of animals each day."

The main improvements in the Commission proposal published today are:

- Extension of the scope of the directive to include animals such as certain invertebrates
- Higher standards for housing and care
- Stricter provisions for enforcement on the need to use alternative tests when available

The revision of the directive will be subject to co-decision, which means Parliament will be able to submit amendments to further improve it.

ENDS

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