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Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius
Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
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Brussels, 10 March 2023

Dear Commissioners Breton and Sinkevičius,

Tomorrow, 11 March 2023, marks ten years since the start of the implementation of the final phase of the long-awaited EU ban on cosmetics animal testing and the sale of cosmetics containing ingredients tested on animals after that date.

The EU Cosmetics Regulation sets the standard for safe innovation without animal testing, while also accelerating the development and regulatory acceptance of non-animal test methods. The suffering of thousands of animals was prevented and the longer-term aim of full replacement of animal testing was brought one step closer. MEPs, consumers, companies, and animal protection organisations rightly claimed a ground-breaking victory resulting from decades of campaigning.

As a driver for change, the EU cosmetics animal testing and marketing ban has spurred dynamic collaborations between scientists, industry, regulators and NGOs which have led to what is now a constantly progressing field of superior non-animal testing and assessment approaches.

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Last week, the European Commission announced the adoption of new rules that may accelerate the inclusion of internationally approved test methods in REACH. It also adopted new toxicity tests, in which the majority are non-animal methods. However, despite the rapid growth that the field of regulatory toxicology has seen over the past decade, policy proposals under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability are still likely to focus on an increasing reliance on animal testing, rather than the development of more biologically and environmentally relevant methods that can help to discontinue their use across multiple sectors.

In 2021, the European Parliament in its resolution on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, reiterated the need to replace animal testing through an expanded use of advanced non-animal methods and called for increased efforts and funds to this end. The significance of the cosmetics animal testing and marketing ban was further reinforced within the resolution through the call that the ban must not be compromised by testing conducted under other legislation such as REACH.

As we look forward to the next decade, we join the 1.2 million EU citizens who signed the European Citizens' Initiative: *'Save cruelty free cosmetics – commit to a Europe without animal testing'* in calling on the European Commission to protect and strengthen the cosmetics animal testing and marketing ban. It is essential that policy and legislative changes are initiated to guarantee consumer, worker and environmental protection for all cosmetics ingredients without testing on animals for any purpose at any time.

Yours sincerely,

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