

Written Declaration on Primates in Scientific Experiments

Declaration n°40 By Jens Holm (EUL/NGL), Rebecca Harms (Greens/EFA), John Bowis (EPP-ED), Martine Roure (PES) and Mojca Drčar Murko (ALDE)

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already over 300 signatures

Dear Member of the European Parliament

The first September Plenary week will be the last opportunity to sign the Written Declaration n°40.

During the final countdown we still need your support in order to achieve the required 393 signatures for the declaration to be carried forward.

The adopted written declaration would send a clear message to the Commission and the Council of Ministers to use the imminent revision process of the **Council Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and scientific purposes**:

- to make ending the use of great apes and wild caught monkeys in scientific experiments an urgent priority;
- to establish a timetable for replacing the use of all primates in scientific experiments with alternatives.

More than 300 MEPs have already given their support as they are convinced about the unreliable nature of scientific experiments on primates and about the urging need to foster the research of non-animal based alternatives which can provide more trustworthy outcomes. It has to be taken into account that even though primates are very closely related to humans, there remain still clear species related differences. It is therefore quite a dangerous undertaking to use results achieved in primates research for human health purposes.

Not at least, it seems hardly acceptable on ethical grounds to submit our closest relatives in evolution to such painful and distressing scientific experiments.

We count very much on your help.

Sincerely,



Sonja Van Tichelen
Director



You can find the text of the written declaration on the rear side of this letter.

Written declaration on primates in scientific experiments

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas more than 80% of respondents to the 2006 Commission's public consultation on animals in experiments considered the use of primates in experiments as not acceptable,
- B. whereas more than 10 000 primates are used in experiments every year in EU laboratories,
- C. noting that almost all primate species share more than 90% of their DNA with humans and it is acknowledged that the primate species have a capacity to suffer greatly in captivity,
- D. whereas 26% of primate species are in danger of extinction and wild-caught primates continue to be used in laboratories, in addition it may be difficult to protect primates from threats such as human consumption if it is perceived that these species are used freely by Western academic institutions,
- E. whereas advanced technology and techniques now provide alternative methods that are proving to be more efficient and reliable than primate experiments, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), microdosing, computer modelling or tissue and cell culture,
- F. noting that despite genetic similarities, there are important differences between humans and other primates, and primate experiments cannot match the precision of human-based study,
- 1. Urges the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament to use the revision process of Directive 86/609/EC as an opportunity to:
 - (a) make ending the use of apes and wild-caught monkeys in scientific experiments an urgent priority,
 - (b) establish a timetable for replacing the use of all primates in scientific experiments with alternatives;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.