

**Committee on Cell Biology, The Polish Academy of Sciences
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KCyt/29/2015

Mr. Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament
and Members of the European Parliament
Brussels, Belgium

Re: Request to oppose the European Citizen's Initiative "Stop Vivisection"

Honorable President and Members of the European Parliament,

Committee on Cell Biology, The Polish Academy of Sciences opposes the "Stop Vivisection" Citizens' Initiative. We strongly urge the European Commission and European Parliament to vote against the recommendation to abrogate directive 2010/63/EU.

Banning the usage of the animal models in medical research would block the development of new therapies indispensable in the modern era in which spread of deadly diseases occurs all over the world, and moreover, many known diseases are still incurable. While other methods add to the research possibilities, none of them can truly substitute for experimental animals that provide information how various therapeutic methods perform in vivo. In the hypothetical situation of ban, novel therapies would have to be tested initially on humans including children (when approaching disorders that do not occur in adults) with all unexpected consequences.

Our Committee was established in 1972 and is composed of 48 elected scientists who are affiliated with 23 most important bio-medical institutions in Poland. Many of them participate in the EU-sponsored scientific projects in which the animal models are indispensable to make a progress in medicine. The highest ethical standards are used in these studies. Our Committee was involved in the legislation process in Poland by sending the letters to each member of Senate in January 2015 when a new act on usage of animal models in research and education was voted. This act is the most restrictive in EU and will be effective starting from May 27, 2015.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this important matter

Best regards


Elzbieta Wyroba, President of the Committee on Cell Biology

Warsaw, April 29, 2015