

Dear Dr Schutte and Dr Louhimies,

An important point that you may have overlooked in the planning of the December conference is the intent of the letter sent to Stop Vivisection by Vice president Jyrki Katainen dated 17 December 2015 (see link below).

In his letter Mr Katainen clearly states that "following your request, we are organising a Scientific Conference next year, which will discuss the validity of the animal models where they are currently still used. We would be keen for you and your Stop Vivisection colleagues to participate in this discussion."

We accepted this invitation in good faith and on the understanding that the theme of the conference would be limited to a serious and in-depth discussion of the validity of the animal model. Additionally, there is absolutely no indication in the letter that the EC would decide who the speakers would be for Stop Vivisection.

We feel at this point that it would be helpful if you could obtain a clear written response from Mr Katainen for the benefit of all concerned.

On a different note, you write that "A session on "the necessity of making validated alternative methods mandatory by law" cannot be proposed by us given that the use of validated alternatives already is a legal obligation in the EU since 1.1.2013 when DIR 2010/63/EU took effect".

Can you please explain what you mean by "legal obligation"? We cannot find any legal obligation in our national transposition of the directive.

Kind regards,

Dr Andre Menache and Professor Gianni Tamino

on behalf of Stop Vivisection

<http://www.stopvivisection.>