

Dear Mr. Menache and Mr. Tamino,

It is not fully clear to us from your reply whether you are still willing to participate in the conference. If so, then we would invite you both (or another ECI committee colleague you would like to bring) to a face-to-face discussion about the planning of the programme during the week of June 20th or week thereafter, possible options indicated below.

Please note however, that we committed to and announced a conference to provide a platform for scientific debate around the most promising research avenues today and for the future, and not a discussion pro or against animal use only. Also, while it is true that we offer this platform in response to your ECI, it is not a hearing for the ECI alone anymore, but intended to be a very broad exchange of scientists and experts opposing animal use, using animals, using in vitro or both or other technologies. With this in mind, we want to be clear that it is unrealistic to expect that we could grant the ECI committee to select 50% of all speakers or talking time.

We have been busy since months to work with the large variety of stakeholders in this subject area to deliver what was requested and committed: a scientific debate.

We thought that we had already explained so, but are happy to confirm again that the conference is not about the 3Rs but rather aims to move forward from there together.

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 DIR2010/63/EU took effect.

For organisational purposes, we have to finalise the programme before the summer break and need to identify the panellists and speakers by name to contact them.

If you are still interested to collaborate in building the programme together with us, please let us know if you can join us on either of the indicated times and bring suggestions for panellists/speakers along as discussed with Mr. Menache by phone.

June 21 between 9 - 12:00 (preferred)

June 22 morning or afternoon

June 27 between 11 - 14:00

Best regards,

Katrin Schutte & Susanna Louhimies