

MR JYRKI KATAINEN

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Dear Mr Katainen,

Thank you for your reply dated 17 December 2015 in response to our letter dated 10 September on behalf of the Stop Vivisection Citizens' Committee.

We warmly welcome your announcement of organising a Scientific Conference in 2016, which will discuss the validity of the animal models where they are currently still used. We would certainly be keen to actively participate in this discussion, especially concerning the format of such a conference.

Such an event will be welcomed by the 1.17 million persons who supported the Stop Vivisection Initiative, and will be seen as a crucial step forward in the debate concerning the use of animals in research and testing towards the much acclaimed need of implementing methods of research and toxicological assessment that really address the health safeguard needs of the Planet and all its inhabitants at the turn of the XXI century.

This would also be a good opportunity to remedy the imbalance that we experienced at the public hearing at the EU parliament in Brussels on 11 May 2015, at which the three representatives of Stop Vivisection were given a total speaking time of just 34 minutes in which to present their arguments at an event that lasted three and a half hours. Something you surely agree with is that both parties (pro and con animal testing) should always be given the same opportunity to express their opinion at such important public events.

Given our involvement in such an important event as the 2016 Conference, we respectfully ask that we are informed as soon as possible about its timing and resources. To that end - and to be able to appropriately inform our public - we ask whether we can meet with you and the conference organisers in Brussels at your earliest convenience.

Finally, not having received a draft of the survey "accelerating progress in the three Rs through knowledge sharing" that will be launched this month as part of Action 1 in the Commission response, and not having been able to participate in its elaboration, we would be grateful to receive more information about it in order to consider our contribution.

Yours sincerely,

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On behalf of Stop Vivisection Citizens' Committee