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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate A - Green Economy
ENV.A.3 - Chemicals
Head of Unit

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Dear Mr Menache,
Dear Mr Tamino,

As you know, the Commission replied on 3 June 2015 to the Citizens' Initiative "Stop Vivisection". In response to one of your requests, we committed to organising a scientific conference engaging the scientific community and relevant stakeholders in a debate on how to exploit the advances in science for the development of scientifically valid non-animal approaches and to advance towards the goal of phasing out animal testing.

I am pleased to inform you that this conference will take place on **December 6 – 7, 2016** in the congress and meeting centre **The Egg, Bara Street 175, 1070 Brussels**.

We are still working on the conference programme, but we can already inform you that one of the sessions will be dedicated to discussing the validity of the animal model, the topic you asked to be debated, and we want to invite you to propose one or two speakers to present your views.

We would like to stress that the aim of the conference is a real scientific dialogue on the topic, so we would like to ask you to come prepared to debate the issues from a science-based perspective. In order to allow sufficient discussion, presentations should not be longer than 15 minutes.

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Would you please confirm your interest in contributing to the conference and nominating (a) representative(s) to give a presentation and participate in the scientific debate by e-mail to: katrin.schutte@ec.europa.eu before 15 April 2016?

We will then make further contact with you in the coming months to speak about your contributions to the event in context of the planned programme in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Bjorn Hansen