

Forwarding the press release received from Stop Vivisection 30.11.2016

STOP VIVISECTION counter-conference

at the **European Parliament: tuesday, 6.12.2016**
9.00 am to 1:00 pm

A response to the Commission's lack of accountability

The European Citizens' Initiative « Stop Vivisection » announces the NEW 3Rs for biomedical research: **revamping, recasting, regenerating**.

On December 6, in Brussels, Stop Vivisection speakers and promoters will present a **Counter-conference** to the public at the European Parliament to explain the urgent need to do away with animal experimentation and revamp it both at the institutional and at the societal level.

This Counter-conference is hosted by Eleonora Evi MEP (EFDD - Five Star Movement).

As the title suggests, this will be a Counter-conference, as part of a response by the organisers of the European Citizens Initiative (ECI) Stop Vivisection to another conference simultaneously taking place on 6 December in a different location in Brussels, organised by the European Commission (EC).

Despite claims by the EC that its conference is being organised in response to proposals made by the Stop Vivisection ECI (one of only 3 ECIs that succeeded in collecting more than one million signatures), we would like to make it absolutely clear that **the conference organised by the EC does not bear our signature and is not in our name**.

What separates the two conferences is that we will address the two major issues highlighted by Stop Vivisection during two years of intense mobilisation across the EU:

(1) the lack of scientific validity of using animals to predict human response to drugs and disease, and

(2) the necessity of getting rid of all the huge political, cultural and financial obstacles that interfere with the validation and effective use of reliable methods of research.

Both issues are crucial because of the negative impact of animal experiments on human health and the environment, in addition to animal suffering. The EC has proven to be immune to any legal challenge, and blind and deaf to the legitimate requests of its citizens. Therefore, on behalf of 1,173,131 certified signatures, our conference will recast new initiatives at the national, EU, and international level.

A LEGAL COMPLAINT about the inadequacies of the EC to meet its citizens' requests has been recently submitted by the promoters of STOP VIVISECTION to the European Ombudsman.

The option of launching parliamentary commissions of inquiry by individual EU member states, into the question of the validity of the animal model, as predictive of human response to drugs and disease, will also be discussed at the meeting.

For more than five decades since its inception, the 3Rs principle (refine, reduce, replace) that pervades Directive 2010/63/EU and is the mantra of the EC conference, has succeeded in preserving the **status quo** and defeated any and all attempts to end animal testing.

Biomedical research needs to be regenerated and radically renovated, if we want to overcome the shortcomings of a practice that does not deserve the name of science. Nor the label of a “necessary evil”.

For info & accreditation, please send an e-mail to: eleonora.evi-office@europa.eu, specifying your data (name, surname, date of birth, nationality, identity document, n° of identity document).

« The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones »

John Maynard Keynes

for more information: **<www.stopvivisection.eu>**

UPDATED AGENDA OF THE COUNTER-CONFERENCE

European Parliament 6.12.2016

Debate on the shortcomings of the ECI as emerged in the Stop Vivisection case and on the scientific reasons why it is necessary to overcome animal testing

8:00 - 8:45

Registration & Accreditation

Meeting point: Ex INFO POINT at the Esplanade Solidarosc

9.00-9.05

Welcome Speech

Ms. Eleonora Evi

MEP EFDD, Member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

PANEL I: Stop Vivisection and the shortcomings of the ECI

9.05-9.10

Introduction

Mr. Fabio Massimo Castaldo

MEP EFDD, Member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Speakers

9.10-9.40

Prof. André Ménache

Scientist, Stop Vivisection Committee

9.40-10.10

Prof. Gianni Tamino

Scientist, Stop Vivisection Committee

10.10-10.30

Prof. Marco Mamone Capria

Scientist, University of Perugia

PANEL II: Alternative Methods, focus on science and funding

10.30-10.35

Introduction

Ms. Michèle Rivasi

MEP Greens/EFA, Member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Speakers

10.35-10.50

Dr. Ray Greek

Scientist, President AMFA (Americans for Medical Advancement)-video message TBC

10.50-11.10

Dr. Elisabet Berggren

Deputy Head of Unity, EURL-ECVAM, JRC

11.10-11.30

Dr. Candida Nastrucci

Scientist, President of TheAlternatives

11:30-11.50

Dr. François Busquet

Policy Coordinator, CAAT Europe

PANEL III : Ethical Aspects

11.50-11.55

Introduction

Mr. Marco Zullo

MEP EFDD, Member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Speakers

11.55-12.05

Mr. Matteo Cupi

Animal Equality (NGO), Executive Director

12.05-12.15

Mr. Claudio Pomo

Essere Animali (NGO), Campaigns Manager

FINAL REMARKS & DEBATE

12.15-12.20

Closing speech

Mr. Stefan Eck

MEP GUE/NGL, Vice-Pres. of Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Debate, Q&A

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