

Dear Dr. Menache and Prof. Tamino,

Please let me make clear that the letter sent by VP Katainen was aligned with our directorate and intended to convey that the topic of most interest to you, the validity of the animal model, will be among the themes to be discussed at the conference.

However we did not say that the conference would be limited to this point alone. Also, such a limitation to one single topic would in our view not provide the most insights on how to move forward in the future.

Regarding the panel members or presenters participating for Stop Vivisection, we have only shared some ideas with you via phone in good faith and hope for a collaborative interaction.

As explained to Dr. Menache on the phone, we plan to invite up to 8 or 9 panelists per session, who will all take part in the moderated panel discussion that will be the most important part of each session.

We propose only 3 or 4 presenters per session that are invited to set the scene for the session/discussion topic with a short presentation.

We would now like to ask you to identify one Stop Vivisection representative to be a panel member for each session. Given that we have to accommodate many other experts and stakeholders as panel members and presenters, we are offering you to select a presenter of your choice for the session 1-Animal testing Today and for session 6 –The Future of Research. The presenter you propose would then also be your panel member for this session. As previously mentioned, we would like to ask that you provide us with the names of your candidates by the end of June.

As requested we also reiterate again where the legal obligation to use validated alternative methods instead of animal tests is established in Directive 2010/63:

Article 4 (1) demands: “Member States shall ensure that, wherever possible, a scientifically satisfactory method or testing strategy, not entailing the use of live animals , shall be used instead of a procedure.”

Article 4(4) specifies: ”This article shall, in the choice of methods, be implemented in accordance with Article 13”.

Article 13 on choice of methods specifies that “Member States shall ensure that a procedure is not carried out if another method or testing strategy for obtaining the result sought, not entailing the use of a live animal, is recognized under the legislation of the Union.”

Best regards,

Katrin SCHUTTE

(Policy officer)