

Dit manifest van het ECEAE (Europese Coalitie voor de Beëindiging van Dierproeven), waar GAIA deel van uitmaakt, is in het Engels, omdat dit de voertaal is binnen de Europese Unie.

Manifesto ECEAE

Objectives for the next European Parliament 2009-2014

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE) represents 18 animal welfare organisations across Europe and has hundreds of thousands supporters.

The ECEAE is committed to advocate for the millions of animals used in experiments every year and to represent public opinion.

To protect animals better and to move the EU forward, candidates to the European elections need to convince citizens that they can address the following issues in the next 5 years and beyond:

- ❖ *A targeted strategy to reduce animal experiments*
- ❖ *A ban on the use of primates, dogs and cats*
- ❖ *A ban on the use of wild caught animals*
- ❖ *More funding for alternatives*
- ❖ *A better application of the transparency principle*

(Specific objectives focusing on the next 5 years)

A targeted strategy to reduce animal experiments

The legislation on the protection of animals in experiments (Directive 86/609/EEC) is currently being revised. Proposals to replace the use of animals in experiments should reflect citizen's views to see the EU implementing a strategy to phase out all animal experiments.

Research into non-animal alternatives techniques should be boosted and the promotion of the use of existing methods increased.

It is up to the European Parliament to make this legislation more progressive and positive for animals.

❖ *Replacing, Reducing, Refining the use of animals in experiments*

The current revision of Directive 86/609/EEC is the best opportunity for decades to make a real difference to the use and suffering of millions of animals every year.

The revised legislation should put the protection of animals at its heart, offer a bold framework for systematically challenge the use of animals and accelerate the development of new scientific techniques to replace animal experiments.

We call for: the protection of the interests of the animals, and an EU strategy to progressively reduce animal experiments, develop and promote the use of non-animal testing methods.

❖ **Phasing-out the use of non-human primates**

Over 10,000 non-human primates are annually used in the EU. Experiments on those highly sensitive creatures are morally unjustifiable, scientifically flawed and deeply unpopular. New scientific and policy approaches are needed to outline a vision in which primate research belongs to the past. The European Parliament has already called (in 2007) for their use to be phased-out, the next Parliament needs to make this a reality.

We call for: an immediate and absolute ban on the use of Great Apes and wild-caught primates, and the use of non-human primates to be phased-out by the end of 2013 through the current revision of Directive 86/609/EEC.

❖ **Phasing-out animal testing for household products**

A good majority of European citizens refuse to believe that animals still suffer considerably to test household products and their ingredients. There is a need to take urgent action to put an end to this unnecessary cruelty against animals. A similar prohibition is in place for cosmetics testing. This practice is unjustified because of the non-essential nature of the product. The same logic needs to be applied for household products.

We call for: a prohibition of animal testing for finished household products and their ingredients

Phasing-out the use of dogs and cats

More than 73% of the European citizens who participated to the public consultation launched by the European Commission in 2006 considered that the use of dogs and cats in experiments is unacceptable. Due to a high level of concern expressed by European citizens the ECEAE calls for a phasing-out of the use of dogs and cats.

We call for: a ban on the use of dogs and cats

(Broad objectives)

A better application of the transparency principle

The various EU institutions need to communicate better with the citizens, when it comes to creating, discussing or reviewing animal protection policies. Improving stakeholders' participation in the legislation making and review process is essential. Animal protection groups not only give a voice to animals but also represent

European citizens' views on animal welfare policies.

❖ **Transparency with European citizens**

European citizens need and want to receive a full and undistorted picture of what animal research really means for the millions of animals annually used. This means that they want to know more about how, why and in which circumstances animals are used, and if alternative methods are actually available. It is vital that a full and open debate can be held across Europe.

We call for: a commitment from the EU, Member States, and animal users to be more open with citizens about the number of animals annually used, the purposes of the experiments, and the application of alternative methods in order to assess if the legislation is adequate.

❖ **Participation of stakeholders**

Animal experimentation is a controversial area. This not only means that the legislation is based on scientific and economical arguments, but the debate also refers to ethical and moral grounds. This is the reason why European citizen's voice should be represented in the decision-making process of the legislation dealing with animal welfare. Animal protection groups give a voice to animals and also to a growing majority of citizens who feel concerned about the constant improvement of animal welfare. Their voice needs to be heard.

We call for: a better dialogue between the civil society and the decision makers as opinions of the stakeholders need to be effectively reflected in the legislation, and at the stage of its implementation and revision.