Statement supporting European Directive 2010/63/EU ("Directive") on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes

The European Parliament and Commission must oppose the 'Stop Vivisection' Citizens' Initiative that is seeking to repeal the Directive and ban animal research. The Directive is vital to ensure that necessary research involving animals can continue whilst requiring enhanced animal welfare standards.

Summary: The use of animals in research has facilitated major breakthroughs in medicine which have transformed human and animal health. We support research using animals where alternative methods are not available, where the potential benefits to health are compelling, and where acceptable ethical and welfare standards can be met. The Directive has enhanced animal welfare standards and introduced the concepts of refinement, replacement and reduction ('3Rs') across the EU, while ensuring Europe remains a world leader in biomedical research. The 'Stop Vivisection' Citizens' Initiative must be opposed by the European Parliament and the Commission - repealing the Directive would represent a major step backwards both for animal welfare in the EU and for Europe's leading role in advancing human and animal health.

Research using animals has enabled major advances in the understanding of biology and has contributed to the development of nearly every type of treatment used in medical and veterinary practice today. Research on animals continues to be necessary to understand human and animal health and disease, and to develop and improve treatments for patient benefit across the world.

Animals may be used in research under the Directive where the potential medical, veterinary and scientific benefits are compelling and there is no viable alternative method. The use of animals for testing cosmetic products was banned across the EU in 2009 and the importation and sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals from outside the EU was completely banned in 2013.

For research using animals to be both ethical and scientifically rigorous, it must meet high welfare standards and the implementation of the Directive is key in achieving these standards consistently across the EU. Shaped by consultation with animal welfare groups, scientists and animal technologists, the Directive importantly embeds into EU legislation the requirement to consider the 3Rs when using animals in research. The 3Rs are:

- **Replacement** – methods which avoid or replace the use of animals;
- **Reduction** - methods which minimise the number of animals used per experiment;
- **Refinement** – methods which minimise any suffering and improve animal welfare.

Developments for alternative methods to the use of animals in research, such as use of human cell models and computer modelling, continue to progress and the biosciences sector must continue to drive these forward. However, alternative methods are not able to fully replace the use of animals at this time. For many diseases, including complex conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes, which affect multiple organs, we must understand how the whole organism interacts, which means that research using whole animals continues to be essential.

We call on the European Parliament and Commission to reaffirm their commitment to the Directive. Any roll back from this would both undermine animal welfare and compromise high-quality research using animals. Such research is critical to advancing human and animal health in the EU and globally -and to maintaining Europe's leading role in that endeavour.

Signatories to the statement

abpi — Bringing medicines to life

The **Academy** of Medical Sciences

ACADEMIA PORTUGUESA DE MEDICINA · PRO INCOLUMITATE CIVIUM

ACADEMY OF ATHENS

ALLEA — ALL European Academies

AMD ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

AKADEMIJA MEDICINSKIH ZNANOSTI HRVATSKE · PER SCIENTIAM AD VALETVDINEM · ZAGREB

amrc — ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CHARITIES

Arthritis Research UK

AstraZeneca

aviesan — alliance nationale pour les sciences de la vie et de la santé

Babraham Institute

British Andrology Society

BASEL DECLARATION

BBSRC — 20 Years of Pioneering Great British Bioscience

BIO DEUTSCHLAND — Biotechnologie-Industrie-Organisation Deutschland e.V.

BIA — UK BioIndustry Association

Biochemical Society — Advancing Molecular Bioscience

BRIC — Biotech Research & Innovation Centre

British Heart Foundation

BPS — BRITISH PHARMACOLOGICAL SOCIETY — Today's science, tomorrow's medicines

bsg — BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY — RESEARCH

CANCER RESEARCH UK

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

cea — DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE

CEITEC — Central European Institute of Technology — BRNO | CZECH REPUBLIC

Ce-M-M- — Research Center for Molecular Medicine of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

CMR[B]

cnic — Fundación Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III

COVANCE — SOLUTIONS MADE REAL

COSCE

CRG — Centre for Genomic Regulation

CRUE — Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas

Cystic Fibrosis a fight we must win

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft — DFG

dkfz — GERMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION — 50 Years – Research for A Life Without Cancer

DCU

EACPT

easac — European Academies Science Advisory Council

EATRIS — European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine

EPHAR — www.ephar.org — THE FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN PHARMACOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

European Animal Research Association

EuropaBio — The European Association for Bioindustries

eclam — European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine

efpia — European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations

EGAN — Patients Network for Medical Research and Health

ehn — fighting heart disease and stroke — european heart network

EORTC — European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer

ESLAV — EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF LABORATORY ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

eulife

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

FEAM — Federation of European Academies of Medicine

FENS — Federation of European Neuroscience Societies

felasa — Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations

Genetic Alliance UK — Supporting. Campaigning. Uniting.

GIRCOR — Groupe Interprofessionnel de Réflexion et de Communication sur la Recherche

gsk

harlan

HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

Signatories to the statement

Signatories to the statement