



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Statement from the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe on animal research

Monday 13 November 2017

Reacting to today's publication by the European Commission of the first review of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes* (Directive 2010/63/EU), Professor Colm O'Morain, President of the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe, said:

«As strong supporters of the concept that animal experiments for the development of new medical and veterinary treatments should be carried out in an ethical framework, we are pleased to see that the Commission finds that the new Directive is helping in pursuing that aim.

« Animal models have been, and continue to be, indispensable to the study of the multifaceted interactions of different complex systems carried out with a view to understanding and treating disease. However, the Biomed Alliance believes that there is an increased recognition within the research community that animal models are not always sophisticated enough. Also, we would like to see greater collaboration among all those involved in medical research in the development of alternative approaches. We would particularly encourage the development of incentives to replace the duplication of testing, increase reproducibility and relevance, and to implement open data and open access schemes.

«However, alternative approaches must comply with the same rigorous scientific standards as those using animals. Once again, collaboration will be essential in supporting and validating such approaches. It will be vital to ensure that alternative methods are tested according to exacting standards in order to make certain that they can be used as a totally safe replacement for animal models. This will require action by the entire biomedical scientific community, as well as on the political level.

« Finally, the Biomed Alliance agrees with the European Commission that efforts now need to be more strongly directed towards ensuring the Directive's proper implementation and enforcement in all EU Member States.

« Animal research continues to be vital in the search for better treatments and a better understanding of disease. But we have a duty to make sure that it is carried out in a scientifically rigorous and ethical manner and that alternative approaches are developed with energy and diligence – a duty not just to patients, but to experimental animals too. »

*<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1510219889073&uri=COM:2017:631:FIN>

More details on the Biomed Alliance position may be found at: <https://www.biomedeuropa.org/eu-policy-actions.html>



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BioMed Alliance - the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe
(www.biomedeurope.org)

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) is a non-profit organization representing 27 leading European research and medical societies uniting more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals. The BioMed Alliance is committed to promoting excellence in European biomedical research and innovation with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens.



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