

## Presentation to the Environment and Food Committee of the Danish Parliament by Andre Menache on 7 December 2016.

I wish first of all to thank the organisers and the members of the Danish Parliament for the opportunity to present this message.

The use of animals in research and testing is of great concern to all EU citizens, including some of the Danish people. In fact, 4610 Danish citizens supported the European Citizens' Initiative « Stop Vivisection », which was heard in the European Parliament on 11 May, 2015.

The manifesto of the Stop Vivisection ECI stated that :

***Considering clear ethical objections to animal experiments and solid scientific principles that invalidate the 'animal model' for predicting human response, we urge the European Commission to abrogate Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and to present a new proposal that does away with animal experimentation and instead makes compulsory the use - in biomedical and toxicological research - of data directly relevant for the human species.***

For the past 100 years, the debate about the use of animals in science has been a debate about the ethics of animal suffering. This debate will continue for another 100 years if we continue to ignore the scientific debate that is growing louder and louder within the scientific community.

The scientific argument against the use of animals in research and testing is a very strong argument but it is also complex. Because it is complex, it is not easy to explain the scientific argument to the general public. The aim of the Stop Vivisection ECI was to announce the scientific argument against animal experiments. However, the European Commission did not give us the opportunity to do so at the European Parliament on 11 May 2015. The parliamentary hearing lasted for a total of three and a half hours. The representatives of Stop Vivisection were given only 34 minutes out of three and a half hours, in which to present the scientific argument.

My request to you, the Danish Parliament, is for you to be the first country in the EU to launch a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the scientific justification of using animals in research and testing. Why ? Because animal experiments have a huge impact on the formulation of EU health and environmental policies that are guided on the basis of safety data generated through animal tests (for example, the Biocidal Product Regulation 528/2012/EU, the REACH Regulation 1907/2006/EC and Directive 2003/63/EC relating to medicinal products for human use).

A Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry would be an important first step towards understanding the powerful scientific arguments against the use of animals in research and testing. Such a Commission of Inquiry would allow your members of parliament to hear experts on both sides of the debate. I would be very happy to suggest names of scientists who would be willing to take part in such a Commission of Inquiry, should you require any assistance in finding scientific experts.

Further reading :

<http://antidote-europe.org/public/ATLA2016.pdf>

<https://www.dovepress.com/reach-animal-testing-and-the-precautionary-principle-peer-reviewed-article-MB>

Andre Menache BSc(Hons) BVSc Dip ECAWBM(AWSEL) MRCVS

Director Antidote Europe

[www.antidote-europe.org](http://www.antidote-europe.org)