(English version)

Question for written answer E-001354/25
to the Commission
Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE)
(2 April 2025)

Subject: Roadmap towards phasing out animal testing

On 16 September 2021, Parliament adopted a resolution calling to 'accelerate the transition to innovation without the use of animals in research, regulatory testing and education' ([1]). This resolution urged the development of an action plan with ambitious objectives, concrete targets for reduction and clear timelines for replacement.

This call was amplified further in 2022, as over 1.2 million citizens supported the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) 'Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics — Commit to a Europe Without Animal Testing'.

In response, in July 2023, the Commission launched the development of a roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessment. A draft proposal for this roadmap is set to be presented during a stakeholder workshop on 16 and 17 June 2025.

Could the Commission clarify the following:

1. Will the roadmap be published this year?

2. How will its implementation be ensured (e.g. through the revision of the REACH Regulation or through the Chemical Industry Package)?

Submitted: 2.4.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2025)

In line with its communication responding to the European Citizens' Initiative 'Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics — Commit to a Europe Without Animal Testing' ([1]), the Commission intends to finalise the roadmap by the first quarter 2026 at the latest.

Following the publication of the roadmap, the implementation phase will commence. It will start immediately, following a gradual approach. For some roadmap actions, e.g. recommendations to replace more complex endpoints, where no suitable or validated non-animal methods are currently available, the implementation will require years since progress will depend on the development and validation of such alternatives.

The roadmap will serve as a structured action plan that outlines the steps necessary for implementation, offering *inter alia* concrete recommendations for the integration of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) across 15 legislative areas that currently require animal testing for chemical safety assessments, not limited to the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation ([2]). Its implementation will therefore be relevant to a broader set of EU chemicals legislation.

The Commission also intends to better integrate NAMs into the ongoing revision of the REACH Regulation, where scientifically and legally feasible, and in line with the outcomes of the roadmap development process.

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1 [1]European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2021 on plans and actions to accelerate the transition to innovation without the use of animals in research, regulatory testing and education (OJ C 117, 11.3.2022, p. 84).

([1]) https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2021/000006_en.

([2]) https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/chemicals/reach-regulation_en.