

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001722/25
to the Commission
Niels Fuglsang (S&D)
(30 April 2025)**

Subject: Non-human primates used in experiments and the phasing out of animal testing

Non-human primates were involved in a total of 7 658 uses for animal tests in 2022 (up by 9% since 2021), with France (4 147 uses) and Germany (2 204 uses) being the largest users.

We note with concern that France, Germany and — for the first time, in 2022 — Denmark are the only Member States that use baboons in experiments. In 2022, France reported 73 uses of baboons (an 83% increase since 2021) while Germany and Denmark each reported 5 uses. France is also the only Member State that uses vervet monkeys, with 51 uses in 2022 (up by 1 600% since 2021). ⁽¹⁾

In view of the above:

1. Could the Commission explain what measures are being taken to encourage Member States to reduce and replace the use of non-human primates for testing?
2. Could the Commission explain why these species of primate continue to be used and what is being done to encourage France, Germany and Denmark to permanently phase out testing using these species?

Submitted: 30.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)**

Non-human primates (NHP) continue to play a role in certain research areas, such as neurosciences and immunology, where alternatives are limited.

Their use is governed by Directive 2010/63/EU ⁽¹⁾, which imposes stringent measures limiting their use for specific purposes including basic research, species preservation, translational/applied research, or for the development/testing of substances related to debilitating or life-threatening human conditions. Scientific justification is required to demonstrate that objectives cannot be met using other species.

In 2022, five vervet monkeys were used in France for the production of blood-based products. Baboons predominately participated in translational and applied research (75%), focusing on human immune and musculoskeletal disorders and infectious diseases, while 25% were involved in basic research, largely related to nervous system studies ⁽²⁾.

In Denmark, zoo animals, destined for euthanasia, were used in pharmacokinetic research to develop safer anaesthesia, contributing to animal welfare knowledge.

Further context on how and why NHP are being used is available in the ALURES non-technical project summary database ⁽³⁾. In line with the European Research Area Policy Agenda 2025- 2027 the Commission, alongside Member States, has launched an action ⁽⁴⁾, focusing on accelerating new approach methodologies (NAMs) aimed at advancing biomedical research and reducing reliance on NHPs.

In the Netherlands, an independent committee has been assigned to explore further reductions in NHP use without compromising essential research ⁽⁵⁾.

Meanwhile, the Innovative Health Initiative's NHPig project ⁽⁶⁾ endeavours to replace NHPs with mini- and micro-pigs in non-clinical safety studies.

¹ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/envdataportal/content/alures/section2_number-of-uses.html.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 33.

⁽²⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/chemicals/animals-science/statistics-and-non-technical-project-summaries_en#statistical-database.

⁽³⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/envdataportal/web/resources/alures/submission/nts/list>.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2025)62 — European research area policy agenda for the next three years.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/brieven_regering/detail?id=2025Z07267&did=2025D16494.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.ih.europa.eu/projects-results/project-factsheets/nhpig>.