

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.8.2025)

The Commission plans to present a proposal to revise the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)¹ by the fourth quarter of 2025. In that context, it is exploring options for a better uptake of new approach methodologies (NAMs) for chemical safety assessment.

The Commission agrees that the use of organisms and life stages that are not considered as protected animals under Directive 2010/63/EU² is important for the medium-term replacement of testing with animals considered as protected.

It underlines however that, under Article 4(3) of the Directive, Member States are requested to ‘eliminate or reduce to the minimum any possible pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to animals’, which applies, in line with Article 1(3) of the Directive, also to independently feeding larval forms of vertebrate animals, foetal forms of mammals and cephalopods. Based on current scientific knowledge, the capacity to experience pain, suffering and distress varies between species.

Currently, the Commission is not considering amending the scope of the Directive beyond species and life stages listed in its Article 1(3). It plans however to publish by early 2026 a Roadmap to phase-out animal testing for chemical safety assessments, with attention also to testing with non-vertebrate animals and with vertebrates other than mammals in their early life stages.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC, OJ L 396, 30.12.2006.

² 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. 33–79.