

The Guild's endorsement of the joint LERU/EU-LIFE statement on the ECI 'Save Cruelty-free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without Animal Testing'

The Guild shares the concerns expressed by LERU and EU-LIFE in their [joint statement](#) on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Save Cruelty-free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without Animal Testing".

In [our position paper on animal research](#), we already stressed the importance of further developing animal-free research methods. We applaud the improvement these innovative methods bring in research quality in some research areas. Yet, they still have critical limitations. We fully agree with LERU and EU-LIFE that "committing to a timeline for the phase-out of animal experiments is ill-advised and will significantly harm European competitiveness in the life sciences" as well as the capacities of research-performing organisations in Europe to develop new disease diagnostics and treatments for the health and wellbeing of all citizens.

As long as full replacement is not scientifically possible and a premature phasing out of animal research will lower the level of protection for human health and the environment, we call for communication and transparency on the use of animals in research and for ensuring that Directive 2010/63/EC on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and its implementing measures at the national level remain fit for purpose.