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**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI
ALDO MORO**



DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE

**AGAINST
ANIMAL
TESTING**



TAKE THE INITIATIVE



**European Citizens'
Initiative**

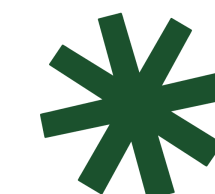


**AGAINST
ANIMAL
TESTING**



«**SAVE CRUELTY FREEEE
COSMETICS – COMMIT
TO A EUROPE WITHOUT
ANIMAL TESTING**»

**EUROPEAN CITIZENS'
INITIATIVE**



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1. Introduction to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)
2. Information about the "Save cruelty-free cosmetics" initiative
3. Legal Objectives and Commission's response
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INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

What is the European Citizens' Initiative? Legal basis, Context, Purpose, Procedure for a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)



WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE?

- Allows EU citizens to propose new laws.
- Requires one million signatures from at least seven EU countries.
- Ten initiatives successfully reached the European Commission since 2011.
- Recent Changes (2020) - New rules were implemented to make the ECI process easier to use and more citizen-friendly.





LEGAL BASIS



ARTICLE 11,
PARAGRAPH 4, OF
THE TREATY ON
EUROPEAN UNION
(TEU)

ARTICLE 24,
PARAGRAPH 1, OF THE
TREATY ON THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (TFEU)

REGULATIONS (EU)
NO 211/2011 AND
(EU) NO 2019/788

RULES 222 AND 230 OF
THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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CONTEXT

- The concept of EU citizenship, from which ECI comes, was introduced in the Maastricht Treaty and it was changed in the Lisbon Treaty after society pressure.
- The right to submit an ECI is protected in Article 11(4) TEU and regulated by Regulation (EU) 2019/788, effective from January 1, 2020.
- The ECI allows citizens to request the European Commission to propose legislation.
- Unlike petitions, which address Parliament on issues of direct concern, an ECI requests the Commission to draft a specific piece of legislation.
- The first ECI regulation entered into force in 2011, but became fully applicable in 2012 after technical adjustments.
- Reports in 2015 and 2018 highlighted challenges, leading to the simplification of procedures in the 2019 reform.
- The Commission remains the only institution with the power to submit legislative proposals.



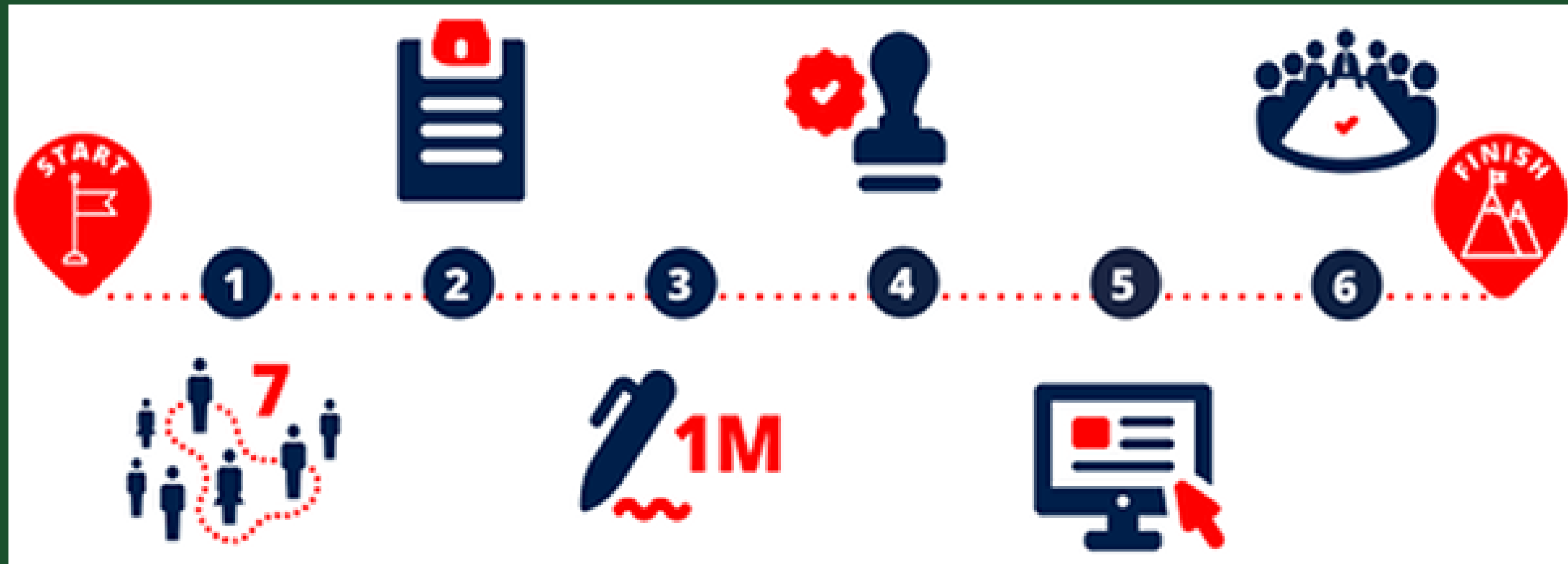


PURPOSE:

The European Citizens' Initiative allows citizens to directly influence the EU's legislative agenda by proposing policy changes, requiring at least one million valid signatures from citizens across at least seven EU member states.



PROCEDURE FOR THE ECI





PROCEDURE FOR THE ECI



Citizens' Committee

7 people from 7 member states, with one representative and one alternate; age: 18 (if allowed 16)

Registration

The committee registers the initiative with the Commission, which decides in 2 months. Registered initiatives are published online, with partial registration allowed.

Signature collection

12 months to collect 1 million signatures, including online, with support from contact points and online platforms to facilitate the process.

Verification and certification

Signatures are certified by national authorities within 3 months.

Review

The Commission publishes the ECI, meets organizers, and responds with an action plan. Parliament can debate and pass a resolution.



INFORMATION ABOUT THE “SAVE CRUELTY-FREE COSMETICS” INITIATIVE

Information about animal testing in Europe, Registration, description,
main objectives of the initiative, timeline

ANIMAL TESTING IN EUROPE



72% OF ALL ANIMAL
TESTS ARE USED FOR
RESEARCH PURPOSES

ABOUT 17% OF ANIMAL
TESTS ARE FOR
REGULATORY PURPOSES,
WITH 75% FOR HUMAN AND
VETERINARY MEDICINES.

ANIMAL TESTING DECREASED ACROSS
THE EU FROM 8.8 MILLION ANIMALS IN
2018, TO 8.5 MILLION IN 2019 AND 7.9
MILLION ANIMALS IN 2020.



REGISTRATION

The European Citizens' Initiative "SAVE CRUELTY-FREE COSMETICS" was submitted to the European Commission on 21 May 2021 and registered on 30 June 2021. The Commission determined it falls within its powers under Article 114 TFEU and aligns with EU goals like the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the European Green Deal. Organizers must collect one million valid signatures within 12 months.



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ORGANISERS



Representative:

- Sabrina ENGEL

Substitute:

- Cezary WYSZYŃSKI -

Members:

- Adrianus Jacobus VAN STEIJN
- Patrizia RE
- Janneke HOGERVORST
- Muriel ARNAL
- Nieves ARAGONÈS HERNÁNDEZ



THEME DESCRIPTION

Save Cruelty-Free Cosmetics: A Successful ECI Example

AIM:

- Strengthen EU animal welfare laws by enforcing the Cosmetics Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009), which prohibits cosmetics tested on animals, and phasing out all forms of animal testing in the EU.

LEGAL BASIS:

- Article 13 of TFEU - EU must consider animal welfare in its policies.

SUCCESS:

- Collected 1.2 million signatures from 21 member states, surpassing the required threshold.
- Highlighted gaps in EU animal testing policies and strengthened participatory democracy.

IMPACT:

- Demonstrated ECI's power to connect EU citizens with the legislative process and influence policymaking.





NUMBER OF VALID STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Country	Statements of support	Threshold	Percentage
Austria	14,923	13,395	111.41%
Belgium	21,804	14,805	147.27%
Bulgaria	54,137	11,985	451.71%
Croatia	11,925	8,460	140.96%
Cyprus	536	4,230	12.67%
Czechia	90,139	14,805	608.84%
Denmark	28,315	9,870	286.88%
Estonia	4,361	4,935	88.37%
Finland	43,943	9,870	445.22%
France	248,070	55,695	445.41%



ORGANISED BY



Supported by

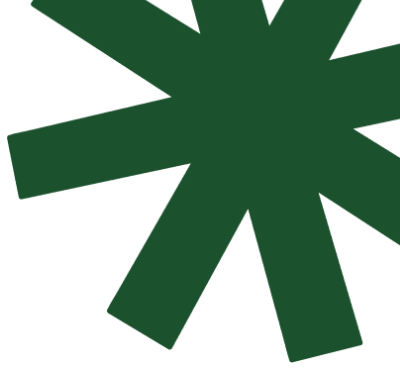
SUPPORT



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TIMELINE

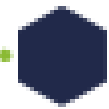


June
2021



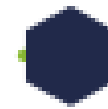
Initiative is
registered

August
2021



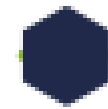
Initiative
starts
collection
of support

January
2023



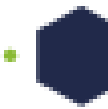
Initiative is
submitted
to the
Commission

March
2023



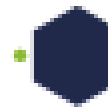
Initiative organisers
meet with Vice-
President Věra Jourová
and Commissioner for
Internal Market Thierry
Breton

May
2023



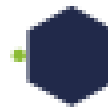
Public
hearing
is held in
European
Parliament

July
2023



A plenary
debate
in the
European
Parliament

July
2023



The
Commission
provides
an official
answer

LEGAL OBJECTIVES OF THE “SAVE CRUELTY-FREE COSMETICS” INITIATIVE

Objective (1-3), The Commission's response



OBJECTIVES

Objective 1

- Protect and strengthen the cosmetics animal testing ban

Objective 2

- Transform EU chemicals legislation

Objective 3

- Modernise science in the EU – Commit to a legislative proposal plotting a roadmap to phase out all animal testing





THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE

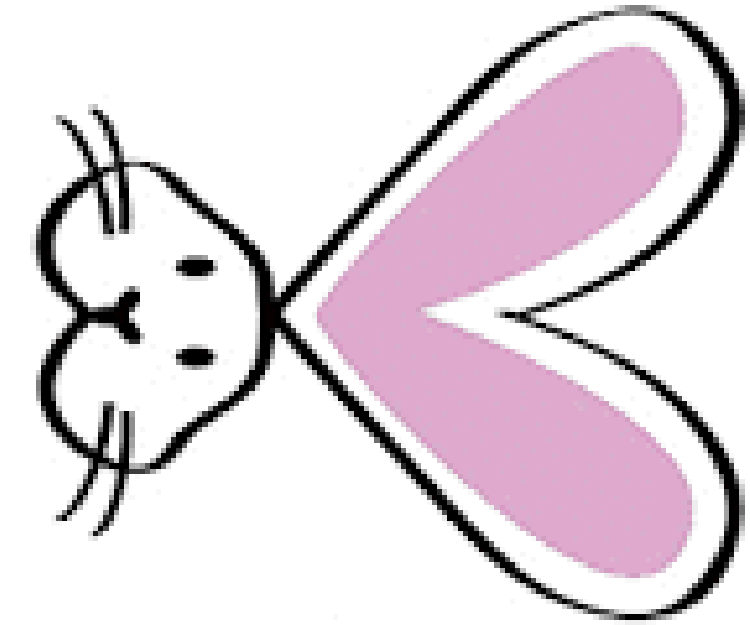
Response to the objective 1

The European Commission's response to the ECI:

- Animal testing for cosmetics is banned since 2013 under the Cosmetics Regulation.
- No immediate changes to the Cosmetics or REACH Regulations, but non-animal testing will be considered in future revisions.
- Expanding regulations to include worker and environmental risks would require major changes and development of alternative methods.

Response to the objective 2

- The Commission will create a roadmap to phase out animal testing for chemical safety, focusing on developing non-animal methods, stakeholder engagement, and global cooperation. Animal testing will only be used as a last resort. Workshops are planned for 2023-2024, with completion expected early in the next Commission's term.



**ANIMAL
TEST-FREE**

— PETA —



THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE

Response to the objective 3

The Commission responds:

- The Commission is proposing a set of action points to accelerate the reduction of animal testing in research, education and training, including activities that will increase cooperation with Member States.

Furthermore, the Commission will continue to support research on alternatives to animal testing with substantial funding.

Summary of the Commission's response to the citizens' initiative

The Commission commits to enforcing the animal testing ban, clarifying overlaps between Cosmetics and REACH regulations, developing a roadmap to replace animal testing in chemical safety, reducing its use in research and education, and funding alternatives.



ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

Current legal framework for animal welfare in the EU, alternatives to animal testing, Commission's recent actions on non-animal testing

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE EU



Animal welfare in the EU

The EU has comprehensive laws promoting alternatives to animal testing. The Cosmetics Regulation (2013) bans cosmetics tested on animals. Under REACH, animal testing is a last resort, requiring alternative methods and data sharing to avoid duplication. The Directive on animal protection sets strict conditions to reduce and eventually eliminate animal testing in research. The EU also enforces the Three Rs principle: replacing animal tests, reducing the number of animals used, and refining methods to minimize suffering.

WHAT HAS THE COMMISSION DONE IN RECENT YEARS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN NON-ANIMAL TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE MEASURES?



Save
Cruelty Free
Cosmetics



OVER 20 YEARS, THE EU HAS INVESTED OVER €1 BILLION IN 300+ PROJECTS, WITH FUNDING RISING FROM €11M ANNUALLY UNDER FP5 TO €75M UNDER HORIZON 2020.

INDUSTRY HAS ADDED €150M. SUPPORT CONTINUES UNDER HORIZON EUROPE (2021-2027), WITH 2024 FOCUSING ON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND REGULATORY ADOPTION.



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ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

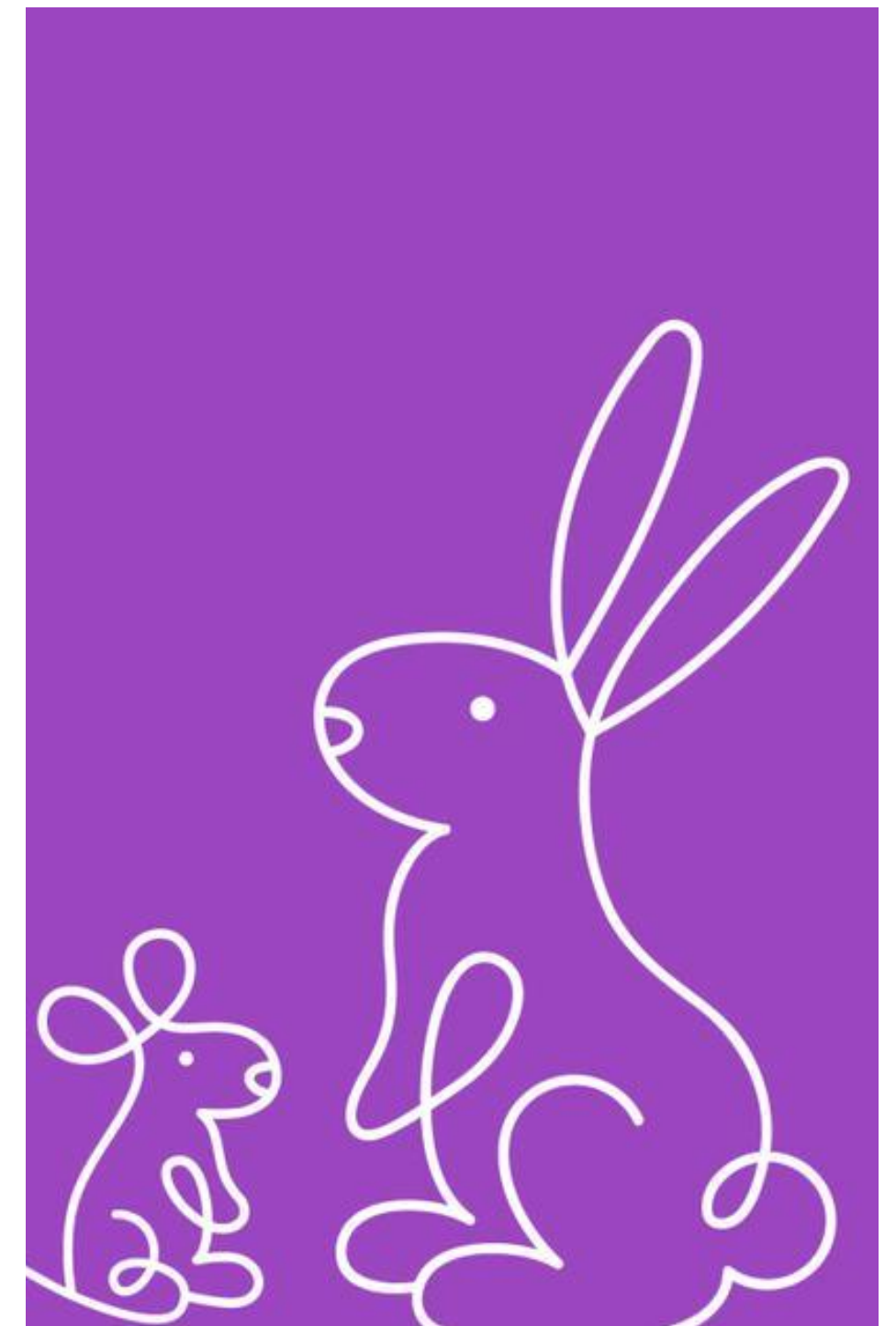
ECHA promotes non-animal methods by encouraging data sharing, supporting tools like QSAR and IUCLID, providing training and guidance, collaborating with global agencies, and advancing in vitro tests for skin and eye irritation.



CONCLUSION



The “Save Cruelty-Free Cosmetics” ECI, with over 1.4 million signatures, showcases citizens' influence on EU legislation. It seeks to eliminate animal testing in cosmetics and chemicals, strengthen bans, and promote non-animal methods. The Commission supports this goal with a roadmap to phase out animal testing, significant investment in research via Horizon Europe, and collaboration with global agencies. Current laws like the Cosmetics Regulation and REACH align with these efforts, advancing the EU’s ethical, scientific, and sustainability goals. This initiative underscores the EU’s commitment to humane, science-based alternatives.



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DIRITTO DELL'UNIONE
EUROPEA

2024/2025

THANK YOU!

