

**Press Release**  
September 2022



## **EUROPE'S CITIZENS DEMAND AN END TO ANIMAL TESTING**

### **Record-Breaking European Citizens' Initiative Reaches Over One Million Signatures**

**For immediate release**  
**Paris, 1st September 2022**

For a record-breaking second time, over one million people across the European Union have said loudly and clearly that animal testing must end.

Over ten million animals – cats, dogs, rabbits, mice and others – suffer an agonising existence every year in research and testing in laboratories around Europe. **Now European citizens are demanding an end to the cruel use of animals in cosmetics and chemicals tests, as well as an ambitious plan to bring all experiments on animals to an end.**

As the deadline for collecting signatures for the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) passed at 23:59 on Wednesday 31 August, **1,413,383 had signed.**

An unprecedented milestone, this is the second ECI on this issue that has surpassed the one million signature mark. The first was Stop Vivisection in 2015.

Christiane Laupie-Koechlin, founder and general secretary of Pro Anima said: "Although we now have to wait several months to see if our ECI is validated by EU member states, the huge number of signatures sends a very clear signal to Europe's lawmakers about the strength of feeling there is on this issue.

“We hope that this time the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament and national governments act at once to end the testing on animals of ingredients used in cosmetics and for all chemical substances. We need an ambitious and urgent plan to consign all other experiments on animals.”

The ***Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics/End Animal Testing*** ECI was launched in August 2021 by animal protection organisations **Cruelty Free Europe, PETA, Eurogroup for Animals, the European Coalition and the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments**, supported by global beauty and personal care companies, **The Body Shop** and **Dove**, and actively promoted by a coalition of groups and campaigners from every corner of Europe.

**This is the first time in history that this number of European organisations has come together for animals in laboratories.**

To be able to reach this million signatures, a huge amount of work has been done, also via social networks: hundreds of stories and posts, dedicated newsletters, and thousands of shares...

Some of the NGOs, including Pro Anima, have called on personalities to relay this unifying initiative. French personalities responded positively to our call, such as, for Pro Anima, **Yoann Latouche**, founder of the French communication agency YLG, presenter of *La Touche Animale* for the media Brut and columnist for a TV show.

In addition, **Jean-Philippe Janssens**, humorist, **Mareva Galanter** ex Miss France, **Elsa Esnault** singer and actress, shared the initiative.

Sylvia Hecker continued: “We are incredibly proud of this collaborative landmark and look forward to successful validation of the signatures. **The people of France and European citizens have made the task for the European Commission clear: it must come forward with substantive legislative proposals to phase out animal experiments and end the suffering of millions of animals in laboratories in Europe.** The Government of France should also take note. We demand change in testing and research. It is high time for Europe to evolve past cruel and outdated animal testing.”

The organisers of the initiative now have three months to submit signatures to member state competent authorities for validation before they can take it to the European Commission and Parliament for action.

**To date, only six ECIs out of a total of 90 that have been registered have successfully completed this validation stage; a further four are currently in the validation phase. To have attracted 1,413,383 signatures is a strong signal that this ECI could join them.**

## Notes to Editors:

For more information on European Citizens' Initiatives see the ECI Factsheet on the European Parliament website.

1. The End Animal Testing European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has brought together a network of NGOs across Europe.

2. A European Citizens' Initiative is an official EU initiative to influence law makers in Europe – a unique tool for change. Each signature goes through a verification process. After receiving the final signatures, the EU Commission will carefully examine the initiative.

Within 1 month after receiving the initiative:

Commission representatives will meet the organisers so they can explain in detail the issues raised in their initiative

Within 3 months:

The initiative will have a full plenary hearing in the European Parliament followed by a possible vote.

Within 6 months:

The Commission will adopt a formal response spelling out what action it will propose in response to the citizens' initiative, if any, and the reasons for doing or not doing so.

**For further information, please contact us.**

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