



Open letter to:

**Stéphane Séjourné**, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

**Olivér Várhelyi**, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare

**Jessika Roswall**, Commissioner for Environment, Water and Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

September 22, 2025

**Subject: Innovation Without Cruelty – A Call to Action on European Day for Humane Science**

Dear Commissioners,

Citizens of the European Union were promised cruelty-free cosmetics. The EU bans on animal testing for cosmetics were a landmark achievement that ultimately sparked

scientific innovation, drove advances in non-animal safety assessment, and set a global standard for animal protection. Today, non-animal methods for ensuring the safety of cosmetics are well established and widely used to test ingredients in other types of consumer products too.

Ethical policy decisions have saved animal lives and driven innovation, but today, these hard-won protections are under threat. The bans are being eroded, and with them, public trust in Europe's commitment to protecting animals and advancing humane science.

On European Day for Humane Science, we, the undersigned, call on the EU to:

1. Defend and strengthen the bans on animal testing for cosmetics to uphold the promise made to EU citizens.
2. Promote cruelty-free scientific innovation by taking steps to boost the development and regulatory acceptance of non-animal methods.
3. Ensure the forthcoming Commission roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessment is ambitious, actionable, and delivers demonstrable change. This roadmap should serve as a launch pad for a broader EU strategy to enable the phase-out animal testing across all areas of science, positioning Europe as a global leader in humane, human-relevant innovation.

These steps will protect animals, advance innovation, and maintain Europe's leadership in humane science. We urge you to act decisively to ensure a truly cruelty-free future.

Yours sincerely,

**NGO signatures:**

Carme Méndez, President, Associació Defensa Drets Animals (ADDA)

Joh Vinding, CEO, Anima

Heidi Kivekäs, Executive Director

Petya Altimirska, Chair of the Board, CAAI

Michelle Thew, CEO, Cruelty Free Europe

Adrie van Steijn, Diervriendelijk Nederland

Ann De Greef, CEO, GAIA

Michela Kuan, Scientific Director, LAV Animal Free Research Area

Anu Tensing, Board Member, MTÜ Loomus

Stefan Dimitrov, Chairman of the Managing Board, Nevidimi Zhivotni (Invisible Animals)

Muriel Arnal, President and Founder, One Voice

Nora Mahmutovic, President, Organisation for Animal Rights and the Environment EVA

Barbora Bartušková Večlová, Chairwoman, Svoboda Zvirat

Ervin Nagy, President, Una Terra

**MEP Signatures:**

MEP Lynn Boylan, The Left

MEP Niels Fuglsang, S&D

MEP Anja Hazekamp, The Left

MEP Pär Holmgren, Greens/EFA

MEP Alice Kuhnke, Greens/EFA

MEP Isabella Lövin, Greens/EFA

MEP Tilly Metz, Greens/EFA

MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, EPP

MEP Majdouline Sbai, Greens/EFA