Procedure file

Basic information

INI - Own-initiative procedure	2001/2259(INI)	Procedure completed
The Directive 86/609/EEC on protection of animals used for experimental purposes Subject 4.20.02.06 Clinical practice and experiments		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	V/ALE EVANS Jill	22/01/2002

Key events

17/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
05/11/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0387/2002	
04/12/2002	Debate in Parliament		
05/12/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0594/2002	Summary
05/12/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/01/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2259(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p2; Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/15646

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0387/2002	05/11/2002	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0594/2002 OJ C 027 30.01.2004, p. 0029-0151 E	05/12/2002	EP	Summary

The Directive 86/609/EEC on protection of animals used for experimental purposes

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Jill EVANS (Greens/EFA, UK) on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. It pointed out that Directive 86/609/EEC on this subject had not been satisfactorily implemented in all Member States and that differing standards still applied with regard to, say, the authorising, monitoring and review of experimental projects. The committee believed that a review of the directive was needed and in particular that its scope needed to be aligned to the scope of the Council of Europe Convention which also covers animals used for education and training purposes. It therefore called on the Commission to present a proposal to amend the directive before the end of 2003. Among its recommendations, the committee said that Member States should be obliged to set up an ethical review procedure as part of the authorisation system for approving animal experiments. Certain ethically unacceptable purposes for animal experiments should be banned, including: the development and testing of weapons including chemical agents on animals; the development and testing of cosmetics including cosmetics ingredients; and the use of wild-caught primates. The report also said that licensing procedures should be made stricter. To obtain a licence to perform experiments on animals, the applicant must be able to prove that the experiments will be of benefit to animals or humans and that the desired outcome can only be achieved using live animals. Moreover, there was a need to set limits to the level of stress to which the animals may be subjected and ensure that experiments were not authorised if they exceeded those limits. The committee also wanted experiments on endangered species to be prohibited, transgenic animals to be included in the directive and the practice of allowing non-human primates to be used for experimentation to be reviewed. Finally, the report called for a central EU inspectorate to be established, with the power to conduct spot checks and revoke licences, and for a central database for approved experiments on animals to be set up.?

The Directive 86/609/EEC on protection of animals used for experimental purposes

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Jill EVANS (Greens/EFA, United Kingdom) based on its own-initiative report. (Please refer to the document dated 5/11/02.) The central database should include information on all current and all completed animal experiments to ensure that there is no repeat testing. The database should also contain information on animal experiments with no directly applicable results so that not only published studies are registered. Finally, the database should also contain information on alternative testing methods which may replace or reduce the use of animals in experiments. The use of the uniform format for presenting data collected from Member States should be made mandatory, and data presentation should occur yearly rather than every three years. Parliament went on to state that GM animals and animals born bearing debilitating deformities as a result of previous experiments that cause the animal to suffer sporadic or continuous pain or discomfort must be killed humanely at the earliest possible opportunity. An EU-wide training course for those undertaking research using animals as well as for those responsible for the care of animals used for experiments should be introduced as a mandatory requirement. The training course should also ensure that researchers and carers make provision, where appropriate, for the training and socialisation of animals for use in experiments so that the animals are familiar with other animals, people and the relevant procedure for the experiment. Finally, Parliament stated that analgesics or other appropriate methods of pain management should be used to ensure that an animal is not subjected to pain or suffering, except for the testing of new analgesics that represent a significant medical advance in terms of safety and quality. The applicant must proove that such testing is imperative for the protection of human health, that no alternatives are available, and subject to prior approval by the competent authorities.?