

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs L. HERKLOTZ

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on restricting animal experiments and protecting
laboratory animals

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the initiative of the Council of Europe to establish a European Convention on the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes,
- with the intention of harmonizing the provisions in Member States on animal experiments so as to ensure a high level of protection of animals,
 - A. whereas scientific experiments on animals - in particular on vertebrate animals - are indispensable if there is to be progress in combating diseases,
 - B. whereas in using animals for experimental purposes account should be taken not only of their capacity to endure pain but also of their capacity to remember,
 - C. fearing that experiments are conducted on animals even in cases where alternative methods are available and despite the fact that the research results obtained with these methods are as reliable as with experiments,
 - D. concerned that many experiments on animals are conducted without anaesthetic or sufficient anaesthetic although the results of the experiment would not thereby be affected,
 - E. whereas animals captured in the wild for experimental purposes endure considerable suffering during transportation - often over considerable distances - the necessary quarantine measures and through being kept in the enclosures of the experimental centres,
 - F. whereas, furthermore, pets suffer considerable discomfort when they are abruptly removed from their familiar environment and transferred to the enclosures of experimental centres,
 - G. whereas in all countries of the Community the capture of pets for sale to experimental laboratories - often in response to so-called bounties - should be prohibited,
 - 1. Calls on the Commission forthwith to draw up a proposal for a Directive to harmonize national provisions on animal experiments so as to ensure the highest possible degree of protection of animals;
 - 2. Considers it necessary to step up the exchange of information on scientific methods used for animal experiments;
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.