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MOTIE

betreffende de Europese regelgeving over experimenten op apen*

Brussels, December 2nd, 2009

To the Members of the European Parliament

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The Koninklijke Academie voor Geneeskunde van België (KAGB) was recently informed that a Directive is in development in the European Parliament regarding the use of animal models in biomedical research (EU Directive 86/609). We were informed that article 8 is dealing particularly with the use of non-human primates (NHP) and suggests to restrict the use of NHP to ‘life threatening and debilitating’ conditions in applied research.

The KAGB is concerned with this clause which would be very difficult to define and would by far prefer a wording that the established animal Ethical Committees bear the final responsibilities. This procedure is in line with research in humans, the well known human Ethical Committees for medical research.

We were told that constructive amendments were introduced by several countries including France and Sweden.

We were also informed that on December 7th an important discussion will take place (Trilogue between Council-Parliament-Commission) to finalize the wording of the proposed Directive.

We would appreciate your support to make sure that these considerations, as described above in the second paragraph, are taken into consideration in the definitive version of the Directive and ultimately in the final version to be discussed and approved by the European Parliament before the end of 2009.

Yours sincerely,
For the KAGB,

Prof. Dr. Bernard Himpens
Secretary General

* De motie werd voorbereid door de vaste commissie voor wetenschappelijk onderzoek in de biomedische disciplines De Koninklijke Academie voor Geneeskunde van België keurde de motie goed op 28 november 2009.
Publicatie: Jaarboek en Verslagen van de Koninklijke Academie voor Geneeskunde van België, 71 (2009), p. 206.