

With the tremendous amounts of data scattered across multiple sources and data bases and the pressure of multiple issues to be dealt with by Members of the European Parliament (**MEP**) everyday, direct and personal communication of scientists and policy makers is of particular importance nowadays. With the new European Parliament being elected, it is the right time for the 3Rs scientists to introduce themselves and offer their expertise, if needed, on policy matter.

On Tuesday 27th January, **CAAT-Europe** organized a workshop (*Science Communication in Safety Testing & 3RS on EU Policy Making: Challenges & Opportunities for the Scientific Community*) to address issues in the field consumer protection & 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) in Brussels. In the first part, the functioning of EU institutions and agencies was presented (**CAAT-Europe and INRA**) as well as stakeholder strategy (**Eurogroup for Animals**) on communication to different EU bodies to gain support and/or acceptance. In the second part, representatives of national 3Rs centers (**Francopa (FR), Swetox (SE) and FICAM (FI)**) shared with the audience their experience and described their strategies in 1) establishing their center 2) creating a favorable environment for sustainable and long-term actions.

The apogee of the day was a network reception between the MEPs and their national scientific counterparts to discuss use of alternative non-animal test methods and new technologies available to ensure better consumer protection. The event was hosted by **Mrs Pietikainen** (Vice-president of the intergroup on animal welfare at the European Parliament). The reception gathered 17 different nationalities from EU member states (see table for more detail).

The objectives of this meeting were multiple and included:

- Raising awareness on state-of-the-art for alternative test methods and related tools such as *in vitro*, *in silico* test methods, organs-on-a-chip or AOPs for newly elected MEPs
- Reducing reluctance towards innovative methods
- Inviting the scientific community to discover the EU policy making process linked with the 3Rs and being more involved up-front of the discussion
- Providing local feedback from the community of EU researchers

Some member states were not represented in the event. However this initiative is foreseen to be repeated. Any scientists interested in joining the next edition should send an email at caat-eu-policy@uni-konstanz.de including CV and motivation letter. As a first follow-up, CAAT-Europe intends to launch a website collecting and summarizing information for policy makers as well as events linked with EU Parliament and 3Rs activities for national, European and international legislation.

Country	MEP	Scientist
AUSTRIA	Karin Kadenbach	Prof. Pfaller, Medical University Innsbruck
CZECH REPUBLIC	Pavel Poc	Prof. Blaha - Recetox, Masaryk University
FRANCE	Pascal Durand	Mr Hubert – Director of Ineris

		Prof. Barouki - Universite Paris Descartes
FINLAND	Sirpa Pietikainen's office	Prof. Ylikomi - University of Tampere
GERMANY	Susanne Melior	Prof. Hartung - University of Konstanz (CAAT Director)
	Stefan Eck	Dr. Daneshian - University of Konstanz (CAAT CEO)
GREECE	Eva Kaili	Prof. Sarigiannis - Aristotle University
	Mitiliadis Kyrkos	
IRELAND	Mairead McGuinness	Prof. FitzGerald – SCAHT
ITALY	Simona Bonafe's office	Prof. Bassi LARF - Dept. Exp. Medicine - University of Genoa
	Fabio Castaldo's office	Dr. Calvillo PhD - Istituto Auxologico Italiano
	Marco Zullo	Dr. Alloisio PhD, ETT, SpA, Genova
LUXEMBURG	Georges Bach	Dr. V. Zuang – EURL ECVAM
	Claude Turmes	
POLAND	Janusz Wojciechowski's office	Prof. Buzanska - Polish Academy of Sciences
	Roza Thun's office	
PORTUGAL	Liliana Rodrigues' office	Prof. Franco - Institute for Molecular and Cellular Biology - Porto
ROMANIA	Daciana Sarbu	Dr. Farcas - BIOTOX
	Claudiu Tanasescu's office	
SLOVENIA	Ivo Vajgl	Dr. Klaric - Cosmetics Europe
	Franz Bogovitz	
SPAIN	Pilar Ayuso	Prof. Repetto - University Pablo de Olavide - Seville
SWEDEN	Fredrik Federley	Prof. Cotgreave - Swetox
THE NETHERLANDS	Anja Hazenkamp	Prof. Hendriksen - Institute for Translational Vaccinology, Amsterdam
		Dr. Schiffelers - Utrecht University
UNITED KINGDOM	Julie Girling	Prof. George Loizou - HSL