



Animal-Free Chemical Safety Assessment Conference

4-6 March 2025

In partnership with



The **Animal-Free Chemical Safety Assessment (AF-CSA) Conference** took place from 4-6 March 2025 and involved more than 250 experts (in person and online) working in breakout groups to develop animal-free safety assessment strategies capable of addressing European chemical regulatory information requirements without animal testing. Each breakout group also proposed short, medium and long-term actions for potential inclusion in the Commission Roadmap to phase out animal testing for chemical safety assessment.

Day one featured introductory presentations on the Commission Roadmap, European Test Method and Validation Strategy, and recent developments in the validation and qualification of NAMs for regulatory use. Panel discussions with thought-starter presentations also took place on Animal-Free Chemical Regulatory Framework concepts and 'Safe Spaces' for industry-regulator dialogue.

Days two and three focussed on eight breakout group discussions that helped create strategic visions and action plans to enable the regulatory paradigm shift required to address human health and environmental safety assessment of chemicals without animal testing. Many of the challenges discussed during the conference were scientific in nature however space was also given to discussing how to measure and manage the change associated with the roadmap transition.

An EPAA conference report is being prepared to inform the EPAA 2026-2030 Action Plan and a scientific publication will also be produced to share these conclusions with the wider community. The proposals developed during the AF-CSA conference will be considered for potential inclusion in

the draft Roadmap, due to be presented at ECHA on 16-17 June during the third Roadmap conference, register here for in-person attendance: <https://echa.europa.eu/de/-/third-workshop-to-discuss-the-roadmap-to-phase-out-animal-testing-for-chemical-safety-assessments>

"The full replacement of animal testing is a challenging task and requires a new thinking, a new paradigm for how we do chemical safety assessments in legislation. We need to be ambitious and bold and reimagine how we make chemical safety assessment decisions to ensure non-animal approaches are the default."

Giulia Del Brenna, EPAA European Commission Co-Chair/ DG GROW

"Participants helped shape the roadmap to make it a tangible transitional initiative paving future of chemical safety in EU."

Katia Lacasse, EPAA Industry Vice Chair/Cefic

"The roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessment can put us on a path towards fully replacing animal testing. However, to reach the goal, we need to continue after publication of the roadmap to work on the long-term change. That requires collaborative organisational structures for supporting the implementation of the roadmap."

Georg Streck, EPAA European Commission Vice Chair/ DG GROW

"Amazing to see both ambitious visions and pragmatic next steps emerge from the conference discussions – we are witnessing the emergence of a new regulatory paradigm as experts gain the confidence to apply animal-free safety science at scale."

Gavin Maxwell, EPAA Industry Co-chair/Unilever

About EPAA

EPAA is a Public-Private Partnership between the European Commission and Industry. Launched in 2005, it gathers 38 companies, 9 European trade associations, 3 EU Agencies and 5 Directorates-General of the European Commission. Further information is available on: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/european-partnership-alternative-approaches-animal-testing_en



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