



# Introduction to ECVAM

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## The Legal Background to ECVAM

*Directive on the use of laboratory animals  
(86/609/EEC)*

*Article 7.2:*

**An experiment shall not be performed if another scientifically satisfactory method of obtaining the result sought, not entailing the use of an animal, is reasonably and practicably available.**

Replace!





## Legal Background to ECVAM:

Joint Research Centre

Reduce!

### Article 23:

Develop & Validate!

The Commission and Member States should encourage research into the development and validation of alternative techniques which could provide the same level of information as that obtained in experiments using animals, but which involve fewer animals or which entail less painful procedures, and shall take such other steps as they consider appropriate to encourage research in this field.

Refine!



Establishment of ECVAM  
in 1991

i<sup>h</sup>CP



## The duties of ECVAM\*

Joint Research Centre

1. To coordinate the validation of alternative test methods at the European Union level.
2. To act as a focal point for the exchange of information on the development of alternative test methods.
3. To set up, maintain and manage a data base on alternative procedures.
4. To promote dialogue between legislators, industries, biomedical scientists, consumer organisations and animal welfare groups, with a view to the development, validation and international recognition of alternative test methods.

\*Commission Communication to the Council and the Parliament, 29 October 1991

i<sup>h</sup>CP



## The Mission of ECVAM

- To promote the scientific and regulatory acceptance of non-animal tests which are of importance to biomedical sciences, through research, test development and validation and the establishment of a specialised database service.
- To co-ordinate at the European level the independent evaluation of the relevance and reliability of tests for specific purposes, so that chemicals and products of various kinds, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, cosmetics, household products and agricultural products, can be manufactured, transported and used more economically and more safely, whilst the current reliance on animal test procedures is progressively reduced.

<http://ecvam.jrc.it/>

