



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
 ENVIRONMENT  
 The Director-General

Brussels  
 ENV/B.2/JBR

Dear Petitioner,

The video published by Cruelty Free International in October 2019 about a German laboratory reveals unacceptable animal welfare standards and a violation of many requirements laid down in the EU Directive 2010/63/EU, which is the world's strictest and most modern legislation for the protection of animals used in science.

Following the publication of the video material, local authorities in Germany have carried out an inspection and brought criminal charges against the facility, and they have closed down the facility.

The European Commission strongly condemns the scenes in the video and has requested the German authorities to clarify how this situation was allowed to happen, and how these apparent breaches of EU law were not identified in the numerous inspections of the facility.

Directive 2010/63/EU includes specific requirements for inspections. The Directive had to be transposed in all the Member States into national legislation by 1 January 2013, when it took full effect. The European Commission already raised concerns about the faulty transposition of this Directive in Germany, and issued a reasoned opinion in July 2019<sup>1</sup> in the framework of infringement procedures. The European Commission is currently assessing Germany's response to this legal action.

In February 2020, the European Commission published the first EU implementation report of the Directive, showing that there are differences in implementation in the Member States, but that the introduction of Animal Welfare Bodies and National Committees has been successful throughout the EU. In line with the Directive, regular inspections are being carried out, of which 40% unannounced.

The Commission is committed to ensuring full implementation of the Directive across the EU, and infringement cases for non-conform transposition of the Directive are pending against a number of Member States. The Commission also considers, as laid down in the Directive, that animal testing for scientific and purposes should ultimately be phased out in Europe as soon as it is scientifically possible to do so, and it is working towards this goal.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Calleja

<sup>1</sup> [https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_INF-19-4251\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_INF-19-4251_en.htm).