

ASPIS Statement on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) on Ending Animal Testing

By the end of August 2022, the [ECI](#) had collected nearly 1.5 million signatures from citizens in support of its call for the European Commission to protect and strengthen the cosmetics animal testing ban, transform the EU Chemicals Regulation, and to put forward a concrete plan to transition to non-animal science.

The European Commission previously recognised that the 2013 Cosmetics Marketing Ban reflected the choice of the European Parliament to end animal testing for cosmetics¹ as well as its positive impact on the determination to develop further non-animal methods,² the ECI further exemplifies the societal imperative. The ASPIS:

- **Supports** the ECI and its calls for only non-animal testing methods to be used for the safety assessment of cosmetics ingredients and the protection of workers and the environment.
- **Recognises** the opportunity for improved chemical safety assessment using non-animal New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and the benefits of moving away from a default tick-box approach in implementing standard information requirements based on animal testing.
- **Agrees** with the creation of a dedicated framework and roadmap to responsibly and effectively phase out animal testing with dedicated funding, ambitious timelines, and cross-sectoral support, which is critical for the transition to non-animal New Approach Methodologies.

Three consortia are working together as ASPIS to accelerate and improve chemical risk assessment in the EU by advancing science, awareness training, and supporting the work of policy and regulatory agencies. ASPIS believes the confidence in the primacy of animal tests for chemical safety assessments is misplaced and, having already been validated for some regulatory endpoints, non-animal New Approach Methodologies are continuing to develop towards assessing complex adverse outcomes with greater precision than traditional animal tests. Furthermore, ASPIS believes legislation cannot be fit for purpose without reflecting the latest advancement of science in the fields of non-animal New Approach Methodologies and this should be applied equally across chemical safety regulations.

ASPIS cluster:

For [PrecisionTox](#), Prof. John Colbourne (University of Birmingham) Grant agreement ID: 965406

For [ONTOX](#), Prof. Mathieu Vinken (Vrije Universiteit Brussels) Grant agreement ID: 963845

For [RISK-HUNT3R](#), Prof. Bob Van de Water (Leiden University) Grant agreement ID: 964537

¹ [EUR-Lex - 52013DC0135 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

² [EUR-Lex - 52013DC0135 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)



About ASPIS:

Since 2021, the EU is investing €60m over 5 years in the three international projects ([PrecisionTox](#), [ONTOX](#) and [RISK-HUNT3R](#)) of [ASPIS](#) under H2020. These projects are entirely dedicated to accelerating chemical safety assessment without the use of animals, to significantly contribute to the zero-pollution ambition announced by the European Commission in the Green Deal, and to support the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) to deliver “a toxic-free environment”. These projects build on nearly €1b of previous EU and industry investments in alternative test methods and the achievements in their development and implementation over the past 20 years.

