The number of European citizens’ initiatives that have successfully reached the required number of support statements for the European Commission to take action, continues to grow. Some have resulted in new legislation, while others have had other meaningful results. All of them have built networks around issues and raised awareness among both citizens and policy-makers.

**ORGANISERS’ GOAL**

A European legislative framework aimed at phasing out animal experiments

**ENGAGEMENT**

1,173,130 signatories from 26 EU Member States

**FOLLOW-UP**

The European Commission:
- acknowledged a need to accelerate progress in the area of replacing, reducing and refining the use of animal testing; and committed to increase the support to the development and validation of alternative approaches;
- organised a conference on how to exploit cutting-edge advances in biomedical and other research in the development of alternatives to animal testing.

The ultimate aim of EU legislation is to phase out all animal testing. In response to the citizens’ initiative, the European Commission is taking a number of actions to enable faster progress in the uptake and use of alternative approaches.

**KARMENU VELLA**

European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – 3 June 2015


