



STATEMENT

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Contact: Emma Tuddenham / Rob Taalman
Tel: +32-2-227-6630
Email: etuddenham@colipa.be / rtaalman@colipa.be

European cosmetics industry announces €8 million extension of its research programme to find alternatives to animal testing

Lisbon, 08 February 2012 – Cosmetics Europe has pledged a further €8million for its research programme into finding alternatives to animal testing, it was announced at the annual SEURAT-1 meeting in Lisbon today.

The new funds come on top of the €50 million programme that the European Commission and Cosmetics Europe have jointly invested in SEURAT-1 under the 7th Framework Programme, and is also over and above the €12 million committed by the European cosmetic industry in 1997.

The Cosmetics Europe Alternatives to Animal Testing (AAT) extended programme will focus on:

- Pre-validation of 'promising' toolbox test methods for Skin Sensitization and data integration activities
- Finalising development and conduct pre-validation of the already developed 3D-model for genotoxicity, and promote regulatory acceptance in this field
- Refinement of eye irritation assays to address last remaining gaps

At the opening of the conference, Cosmetics Europe Director-General, Bertil Heerink, said: "We need to extend this research programme to take full benefit of all the efforts made in previous years. We want the Cosmetics Europe programme to maintain momentum. This industry continues to be totally committed to replacing alternative methods as soon as scientifically possible and therefore we continue to invest in research. The acknowledgement of our industry's efforts helps us to continue our research on such a large scale."

Heerink added: "It is important that all AAT research, including SEURAT-1, is considered in the framework of creating a longer-term roadmap to ensure that all European research efforts are united – and research investments optimised – in order to achieve workable solutions to replace animal testing as soon as possible."

The annual SEURAT conference gathers leading scientists researching human safety assessments in the field of repeated dose systemic toxicity testing of chemicals.

Speaking at the conference, Dr Rob Taalman, Director of Research and Project Management said: "The scientific consensus is that the development of non-animal alternative methods represents a considerable challenge. The cosmetics industry has been working hard for many years to meet this challenge as fast as possible. Nevertheless, the development, validation and acceptance of alternative methods by regulatory bodies can only be considered as a long-term effort."

*****ENDS*****

Notes to editors:

1. Cosmetics Europe is the European trade association representing the interests of the cosmetic industry. Its membership consists of 27 national associations of the EU Member States and beyond, 18 major international companies and 7 associated members. Cosmetics Europe represents more than 2,000 companies throughout the EU via the active representation of its member national associations. For more information about Cosmetics Europe please consult our website: www.colipa.eu .
2. SEURAT is a 5 year research initiative. It stands for "Safety Evaluation Ultimately Replacing Animal Testing". The European Commission's FP7 Health programme and Colipa launched the Research Initiative "SEURAT-1": "Towards the replacement of *in vivo* repeated dose systemic toxicity testing" to develop a research strategy which is consistent and ready for implementation. The SEURAT website gives more information about this programme: <http://www.seurat-1.eu/>.
3. Media contacts should speak to Emma Tuddenham, Communications Director (etuddenham@colipa.be).