



Universität
Konstanz



Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT)

MEP BRIEFING POSITION PAPER

PARLIAMENTARY TERM 2014-2019

HISTORY

CAAT-Europe, housed at the University of Konstanz (Germany), brings together industry representatives, regulators, and academics to address the needs for human-relevant alternative methods to animal testing. CAAT promotes the development and implementation of alternative methods in safety testing by information sharing and by coordinating conferences and workshops. The result has been more than 30 publications with over 200 co-authors in peer-reviewed journals.

CAAT-Europe was established in 2010 as European branch of CAAT located at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland (USA). Collaboration between the two arms of CAAT is the basis for building a transatlantic bridge between scientists and regulators in Europe and the US. With 33 years of history in the US, CAAT's 25- person staff and advanced research laboratories collaborate with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other governmental agencies. With policy programs in Washington since 2006 and Brussels since 2012, CAAT makes its expertise available to policy-makers.

MISSION AND VISION

CAAT-Europe's vision is to be a leading force in the development and use of reduction, refinement, and replacement alternatives (3Rs) in research, testing, and education. The goal is to better protect both human health and the wellbeing of animals. From this perspective, our mission is:



Prof. Marcel Leist
Co-director, CAAT-Europe

Promote and support research on animal-free testing methods

CAAT-Europe sponsors workshops with experts in a variety of research areas. Novel concepts and strategies arising from these workshops are compiled and published in the journal *ALTEX: Alternatives to Animal Experimentation*. CAAT-Europe is a key driver in rebuilding modern toxicology on the basis of a mechanistic understanding of toxicity

Active collaboration with ALTEX on promotion of best scientific practices

ALTEX is also the leading journal in the field of alternatives, and the official journal of EUSAAT (European Society for Alternatives to Animal Testing), ECOPA (European consensus platform for alternatives), t⁴ (the Transatlantic Think Tank for Toxicology), and the American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT).

Serve as a neutral forum and honest broker to foster discussion among diverse interest groups

CAAT-Europe is a scientific entity recognized by industry, academic scientists, regulators and animal welfare representatives alike. This also makes CAAT-Europe ideally suited to act as Secretariat of ECOPA.

Provide reliable information on the science, philosophy, and public policy of alternatives to academia, government, industry, and the general public

As CAAT-Europe is an academic institution formed by two renowned research universities, it is built upon sound science, and financially audited by state institutions. CAAT-Europe promotes reliable and relevant approaches for any study aiming to protect human health. In this context, it also is the European secretariat for the Evidence Based Toxicology Collaboration (EBTC, www.ebtox.com), whose mission is the promotion of evidence-based approaches to strengthen decision-making in safety sciences.

Educate, train, and advise in the application of animal-free testing and research approaches

Along with the educational activities within the University of Konstanz, members of CAAT-Europe are regularly invited to lectures at other Universities or for specific courses all over Europe and are frequently consulted by representatives of broadcast media.

Provide neutral, unbiased background information on animal-free approaches to decision makers

CAAT-Europe is an advisor to the European Parliament via the STOA program, and it has been co-organizer or active participant of ten workshops at the European Parliament and several National Parliaments.



Prof. Thomas Hartung
Director, CAAT
Co-director, CAAT Europe



Dr. François Busquet
EU Policy Coordinator
CAAT-Europe

POLICY PROGRAM STAFF

Prof. Marcel Leist, Co-director of CAAT-Europe, is also Full Professor and Chair for In Vitro Toxicology and Biomedicine, Department of Biology, University of Konstanz. His research is focused on in vitro strategies in the fields of neurotoxicology and neurodegeneration, mainly applying human cell systems.

Prof. Thomas Hartung is the Director of CAAT at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore and co-director of CAAT-Europe. He holds the Doerenkamp-Zbinden Chair for Evidence-based Toxicology. In the US, he leads the Human Toxome project towards a paradigm shift in toxicity testing to improve public health.

Dr. Francois Busquet is the EU Policy Coordinator for CAAT-Europe located in Brussels. He studied Biotechnology in France and completed his PhD at the MerckSerono group in Germany. He worked for three years at DG JRC-EURL ECVAM (European Centre For The Validation of Alternatives Methods) contributing to the development of replacement methods in the area of environmental toxicity. He is also a consultant for the preparation of the environmental toxicity section of REACH registration dossiers.