Comments

**Franz P. Gruber**

**Opinion of the Scientific Committee on the need for non-human primates**

What else could we expect? As already predicted in ALTEX 3/08, the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) stressed the need for the continued use of non-human primates. With Mark Matfield as the speaker, the “Executive Director of the Research Defence Society”, the result was clear from the start – he had already fought fiercely against a ban on primate experiments in England in 2004. The EU obviously no longer even strives to maintain the pretence of impartiality.

At least the statement contains the open admission that the opinion “does not consider the ethical, economic, cultural and social aspects of NHPs use”. This declaration disqualifies the statement from merit serious consideration. He who openly dismisses ethical aspects should have no chance of succeeding before the European Parliament. Even paying lip service to the 3R Principle will not help here.

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