

A Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Spain was launched in Madrid on Tuesday 20 September. The ‘Transparency Agreement on the Use of Animals in Scientific Experimentation in Spain’¹ has been developed by Spain’s Confederation of Scientific Societies (COSCE) in collaboration with EARA.

Talking about the agreement, Kirk Leech, EARA Executive Director, said:

“I congratulate the Spanish scientific community with the successful launch of the Spanish Transparency Agreement on Animal Research. The Spanish agreement is the latest in a series of initiatives across Europe to encourage transparency on animal research.”

“It’s fantastic to see such a large number of research institutions signed up to the Transparency Agreement. This provides great strength in numbers in improving communication to the public about animal research. The next challenge will be to put the commitments into action – EARA will be helping COSCE to follow up on this and ensure that Spain keeps moving forward in openness on animal research.”

The Spanish Transparency Agreement is inspired by the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK² and outlines four commitments for research centres in Spain to open up their communications on animal research. EARA will evaluate its progress annually and support interested research centres to implement the commitments outlined in the agreement. The document, which is available on EARA’s website, can be signed by universities, research centres, research companies, patient organisations and any organisation relying on animal research for their activities. The initiative has featured in Science³ and in most Spanish media, including an article in the newspaper El País⁴.

Groups opposed to animal research have been challenging research centres in Spain to be more open with the public about animal research. The challenges are similar to other initiatives in European countries such as Italy and Germany. The European Commission acknowledged these calls for participatory debates in its response to last year’s European Citizens Initiative ‘Stop Vivisection’⁵, where they called for more transparency and information. The Transparency Agreement is EARA’s approach to support openness and transparency on animal research in Spain.

1. <http://eara.eu/es/propuesta-cosce>

2. <http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/policy/concordat-openness-animal-research>

3. <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/09/spain-joins-bandwagon-openness-about-animal-research>

4. http://elpais.com/elpais/2016/09/20/ciencia/1474387339_526069.html

5. <http://eara.eu/en/stop-vivisection-petition-stopped>



Signatory organisations of Spanish Transparency Agreement as of 20th September 2016.



Presenting the Transparency Agreement in Madrid were (left to right): **Miguel García Guerrero** (Director CSIC Foundation), **Juan Lerma** (Chair Animal Research Committee, COSCE), **Lluís Montoliu** (Cellular Molecular Biology Department, Spanish National Centre of Biotechnology, CSIC), **Javier Guillén** (Senior Director for Europe & Latin America, AAALAC International) y **Emma Martínez** (Policy and Communications Officer, EARA).

This article was submitted to Lab Animal Europe by EARA and has not been peer-reviewed. Lab Animal Europe takes no responsibility for the accuracy or relevancy of the information provided therein.

