

Danish Consensus Platform for Alternatives (DACOPA)

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Danish focus

- **Participated since the early initiatives by ESAC members in 1999**
- **Registered as officially interested partner in 2002**
- **Participated in every annual meeting from 2000 including 2005**

Initiatives in Denmark

- **Parliamentary hearing 4 June 2003 on alternatives to animal experimentation**
 - **Professor Niels Thorn and I advocated strongly for the establishment of a Danish platform**
 - **Supported by most participating organizations**
 - Taken up by
 - The Ministry of Justice in July 2003
 - Three important Danish Councils/Boards and subsequently recommended to the Danish Parliament
 - » Animal Ethical Council
 - » Council for Animal Experimentation
 - » Danish Board of Technology
 - Association of Danish Pharmaceutical Industries (LIF)

Organization of licensing authority

- **Ministry of Justice**
 - **Council for animal experimentation**
 - 11 members
 - Licensing authority
 - » 1 veterinarian and 2 secretaries
 - **Members of Council**
 - Chairman – high court judge
 - 10 members nominated by different organizations
 - 4 members by animal welfare organizations
 - 1 member by animal ethical council
 - 2 members by research councils
 - 1 member by patients organizations
 - 1 member by regulatory authorities
 - 1 member by Danish Industry

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 - 1 member by animal ethical council
 - 2 members by research councils
 - 1 member by patients organizations
 - 1 member by regulatory authorities
 - 1 member by organization of Danish industries
- **The concept is essentially like the concept of ecopa**

Organization of licensing authority

- **Ministry of Justice**
 - **A new law about cloning of animals was decided by the Parliament October 2005**
 - The regulatory authority is identical with the licensing authority
 - Only cloning for research and medical purposes are allowed

Initiatives by Ministry

- **Meetings with**
 - Professor Niels Thorn and myself
 - LIF representative Flemming Højelse
 - Animal welfare organizations
- **Hearings to**
 - Other EU member states with established platforms
 - ecopa regarding legal matters
 - Two Danish research councils
 - Danish pharmaceutical industries
 - Regulatory authorities
- **Hearings finalized in 2004**

Organisation of DACOPA

- **9 members, 8 ordinary members and 1 chairman**
 - **2 members representing animal welfare organizations**
 - **2 members representing academia via research councils**
 - Research council for health and disease
 - Research council for technology and production
 - **2 members representing regulatory authorities**
 - Ministry of health (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, vaccines)
 - Ministry of the environment (all other chemicals)
 - **2 members representing Danish chemical industries including pharmaceutical industries**
- **Chairman appointed by the Ministry**
 - **Chairman and ordinary members are elected for a 4 year period**
- **Danish ESAC member in ECVAM participate in the meetings and activities**

Current process

- **Ministry**
 - **Hearings finalized 2004**
 - **Drafting bylaws for DACOPA**
 - **Asking ministries and organizations for nominations – deadline early November 2005**
- **Timeline**
 - **To be established early next year (January?)**
- **Funding**
 - **The ministry provide secretariat**
 - **The ministry will reimburse**
 - **Relevant traveling and accommodation costs for members of the platform**
 - **Participation in ecopa annual meeting**
 - **Sponsors within the four legs**

DACOPA

- **6 years of intensive work seems to conclude with establishment of a Danish Consensus Platform for Alternatives – DACOPA**
 - **Reality in January 2006**