



We, the undersigned, absolutely protest the opening/expansion of the SILABE (Simian Laboratory Europe) breeding centre for 1,600 primates destined for animal experimentation, which is located at Fort Foch in Niederhausbergen (near Strasbourg), and we demand the closure of the existing primate centre.

Here is why:

- The opening/extension is a direct challenge to the 3 Rs rule (Reduction, Refinement, Replacement) that has been confirmed by the European Directive 2010/63/EU relating to the protection of animals used for scientific purposes;
- Primates and lemurs, as well as the newly added family of marmosets, belong to Annex I (CITES) and A (CE) and are endangered species;
- The scientific aims are not reliable: no species can be taken as a biological model for another. From this perspective, the recourse to the animal model is not only counter-productive, but the side effects and medical consequences endanger people's lives. In France in 2013 they were responsible for 140,000 hospitalisations and for 13,000 deaths, according to Health Insurance data;
- In 1997, the Ministry of Research already rejected a proposal for an identical structure from the same applicants at Holtzheim (Bas-Rhin), because primates are not suitable models for human beings;
- This is a serious ethical issue because nothing can justify inflicting such suffering on sensitive and intelligent animals that are so close to us;
- All these questions have been the subject of the European Citizens' Initiative "Stop Vivisection" that collected more than 1.17 million certified signatures;
- Lots of alternative methods resulting from recent scientific development are now available (www.proanima.fr), and that's where all our resources should be invested;
- The breeding centre is near an area of high water table, running a major risk of polluting the aquifers with veterinary waste, organic matter, and residual trash;
- There are risks to human health and even life too, through the possible spread of new viruses;
- And because this breeding centre is squandering our tax money.

Name	first name	full address (including city and postcode)	country	signature

For the attention of **the Prefect of the Lower Rhine**
Please return to: COPRA 14 rue des Ormes 67200 Strasbourg France
Or to: pro.anima67@orange.fr