

## ANNEX VII

### **DUTIES AND TASKS OF THE UNION REFERENCE LABORATORY**

1. The Union Reference Laboratory referred to in Article 48 is the Commission's Joint Research Centre.
2. The Union Reference Laboratory shall be responsible, in particular, for:
  - (a) coordinating and promoting the development and use of alternatives to procedures including in the areas of basic and applied research and regulatory testing;
  - (b) coordinating the validation of alternative approaches at Union level;
  - (c) acting as a focal point for the exchange of information on the development of alternative approaches;
  - (d) setting up, maintaining and managing public databases and information systems on alternative approaches and their state of development;
  - (e) promoting dialogue between legislators, regulators, and all relevant stakeholders, in particular, industry, biomedical scientists, consumer organisations and animal-welfare groups, with a view to the development, validation, regulatory acceptance, international recognition, and application of alternative approaches.
3. The Union Reference Laboratory shall participate in the validation of alternative approaches.