

BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY Report 2013–2014



EDITORIAL

Networking in Europe and Beyond

2014 was expected to be a year of consolidation for the Basel Declaration and its Society (BDS), but the events in Italy and at the European level have resulted in a number of very important activities that will keep us busy for a while. In addition, the preparations for next year's Basel Declaration Conference in the USA are on schedule.

At the European level the BDS has, with the help of EFPIA, become active in engaging MEPs in a direct dialogue concerning the importance of animal experimentation for life science research and biomedical innovation. A number of BD ambassadors from different countries are contacting their MEPs to engage them in an open dialogue concerning animal experimentation. It is important that academia and life science research are correctly represented in the political discussions concerning animal research both at the national and EU level. The "stop vivisection" EU people's initiative will be debated in Brussels in the coming month and the BDS aims to be actively involved in this debate. Establishing the Basel Declaration as a voice for academic life sciences research in Brussels is an ambitious but important aim. Therefore, I wish to thank the increasing number of BD ambassadors and board members who spend time on these important networking and lobbying tasks at both national and EU level and encourage you to join in!

Another focus has been Italy, where both threats to scientists and the restrictive laws have resulted in a number of manifestations and events organized mainly by Pro-Test Italia. I had the opportunity to attend a manifestation in Milano and what impressed me most was that most participants were young people, students and postdocs, but also the more senior science establishments and some politicians were present. I consider it important that BDS makes an effort to better mobilize the next generation of life science leaders, namely students and postdoctoral fellows to endorse and promote the Basel Declaration and its principles. Therefore, the BDS is now more present at important life science congresses, where we specifically try to engage the young generation and make them aware of the importance of the Basel Declaration and its Society.

In addition to these events, the BDS is moving its activities beyond the traditional EU boundaries. The Basel

Declaration Award for Education in Animal Research was granted to Dr. Vladimir Popov from the State University in Moscow and he is now busy implementing better education and the Basel Declaration principles at his home university. Furthermore, the preparatory phase for the BDS Society Congress in Washington in October 2015 is ongoing. It is a very important step for the BDS to cross the Atlantic and will allow us to interact and network with the relevant US organizations.

In summary, what initially looked like a quiet year turned out to be rather busy and interesting with significant new activities. As President of the BDS, I am particularly happy that an increasing number of board members and ambassadors are dedicating a significant fraction of their precious time to activities of the Basel Declaration and engaging in an open dialog with different stakeholders and/or the general public. All the ongoing and future activities would not be possible without the generous support from an increasing number of sponsors and institutions. For this, and the engagement of all of you, we are very grateful.

Thank you all so much and please continue to generously support the BDS – every donation goes a long way and helps to make the difference!!

Prof. Dr. Rolf Zeller
President of the Basel Declaration Society



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Dr. Aimée Zuniga
University of Basle
Basle, Switzerland

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- **December 2, 2013**
General Assembly of the Basel Declaration Society
Location: Institute of Anatomy, University of Basel
- **January 31, 2014**
Workshop on Communicating Animal Research
Location: Institut of Molecular Medicine, Lisbon
Keynote presentation: Rolf Zeller
This workshop was organised for animal researchers and caretakers from Lisbon
- **February 27, 2014**
Legislazione dell'Animale da Laboratorio ed "Animal care"
Location: Istituto Mario Negri, Milano
Course for researchers using animals
Participating speaker: Giuliano Grignaschi
- **March 11, 2014**
EU-People's Initiative "Stop Vivisection"
Webinar organised by EPFIA to discuss this initiative
Participation: Astrid Kugler
- **March 18, 2014**
The Basel Declaration Society joins the advisory board of the European Animal Research Association (EARA).
BDS is represented by: Giuliano Grignaschi
- **April 16, 2014**
MPoll among EU-MEPs in Brussels on their opinion concerning animal experimentation. Unfortunately, only few MEPs reacted so that no valid results were obtained. This may have to do with the hectic pre-election overlap or the fact that Basal or the fact that the Basel Declaration is not known in Brussels. It was decided to make an effort to change this by trying to increase the visibility in Brussels with Basel Declaration's support of EFPIA.
- **June 6–7, 2014**
International Meeting of MD PhD students
Location: Brunnen, Switzerland
Participation: The BDS has a booth to inform the participants. Astrid Kugler presents the Basel Declaration to the plenum of the congress.

- **June 14, 2014**
RicerchiAmo (Research we love) Manifestation organized by Pro-Test Italy
Location: Milano, Italy
The Basel Declaration board members Prof. Rolf Zeller and Dr. Giuliano Grignaschi participated at the RicerchiAmo (Research we love) Manifestation organized by Pro-Test Italy in favor of animal research on June 14, 2014 in central Milano (Italy)



Rolf Zeller (right) addresses the participants and explains why animal research remains an essential part of basic and applied biomedical research. Dario Padovan (President of Pro-Test Italia; left) helps with translation.



Giuliano Grignaschi speaks to the participants and addresses the problems and threats researchers working with animals face in Italy.

- **July 5, 2014**
FENS Forum Neuroscience
Location: Milan, Italy
Speaker: Stefan Treue on "The Basel Declaration Society and the need for transparency"

• **August 25–29, 2014**

Vladimir Popov (State University Moscow, Russia) is awarded the 3rd Basel Declaration Award 2014 for Education in Animal Research. He is invited to participate at the Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science (FELASA category B accredited) in Zurich and will establish similar courses at his home University (see interview).



Vladimir Popov and Astrid Kugler

• **August 30 – September 2, 2014**

FEBS/EMBO Anniversary Congress (biggest European congress for basic life science research)
 Location: Paris, France
 Participation: The BDS has a booth to inform the participants.
 Rolf Zeller presents the Basel Declaration principles to the participants of a quiz on animal research, the 3Rs and the Basel Declaration.

This is part of the efforts of the BDS to make the Basel Declaration known among graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and encourage them to sign and join the BDS.



The winner of an iPad-Air in Paris, Anna Dziewulska, and Rolf Zeller

• **September 22, 2014**

“Swiss League against Vivisection” protests against NHP research.
 Location: ETH and University of Zurich, Switzerland
 Rolf Zeller joins “Research for Life” to distribute leaflets and engage students and general public in discussions about the importance of NHP research.



Demo on the campus of the University of Zurich-Irchel

• **September 22–23, 2014**

Hellenic Society for Biomedical and Laboratory Animal Science (HSBLAS)
 Location: Athens, Greece
 The first BD Award Winner Eirini Fragkiadaki presents the Basel Declaration, its principles and the Society in a lecture.

Topic: Ethics, Reference number: P-26

Three years of action for Basel Declaration Society
Eirini G. Fragkiadaki*, Sylva Haralambou
*Ambassadors of Basel Declaration Society, Department of Animal Models for Biomedical Research,
 Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Via. Sofias 127, 11521, Athens, Greece, *E-mail: vfrag@pasteur.gr*

INTRODUCTION
 The Basel Declaration Society (BDS) was founded on 5th October 2011. Its members are research scientists specializing in the life sciences, and institutions active in research in the biological and biomedical sectors. BDS purpose is to strengthen public awareness of the importance of animal models in experimental biomedical research, to bring the scientific community together to further advance the implementation of ethical principles such as the 3Rs (Refine, Reduce, Replace) whenever animals are being used in research, to foster communication between researchers and the public, and to enhance acceptance of the Basel Declaration, which is available in seven languages.
 Hellenic Pasteur Institute is one of the 39 affiliated institutions, which contributes to BDS dissemination via the institutional newsletters, the translation of the Basel Declaration in greek and its presentation at the institutional LAS training courses.

MAIN TASKS
 Main tasks of Basel Declaration Society are the:

- Organization of several international meetings with editors and researchers, EU Commission stakeholders, Animal Protection foundations, school programs and open-discussions in universities in order to enhance transparency in animal research communication.
- “Award for education in animal research” that offers a researcher the opportunity to take part in a FELASA cat B accredited course, with the prerequisite to organize within 2-years a similar training program in its home institutions to the animal experiments.
- **Mice Times**, a magazine showcasing true success stories in basic research in which animals play a central role, which is released in English, German and French.
- Creation of policy papers and calls for solidarity with scientists affected by animal rights extremism, like recently in Milan.

SPONSORS
 Main sponsors of BDS is Interpharma, SAMW (Schweizerische Akademie der medizinischen Wissenschaften) and EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) and relies on members donations.

Poster created by Eirini Fragkiadaki
www.basel-declaration.org/ | contact@basel-declaration.org

• **October 15, 2014**

EARA General Assembly

Location: Paris, France

Participants: Aimée Zuniga and Astrid Kugler

One major issue discussed is the protests against NHP in Tübingen. This is directly connected to undercover filming by an animal rights activist that infiltrated the facility to work as an animal “caretaker”

• **October 28, 2014**

Webinar on “Stop The EU Vivisection Initiative” with the aim to train/assist BDS ambassadors to engage in a dialog with their national MEPs in Brussels.

This webinar was organised by the BDS in cooperation with the EFPIA and co-chaired by Gregor Rainer (BDS) and Magda Chlebus (Director of the EFPIA).

A significant number of BDS ambassadors have participated and are now engaging in a proactive dialog with MEPs

• **November 4, 2014**

EPFIA Workshop on

“Implementation of Directive 2010/63”.

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Participant Kevan Martin (BDS)

• **November 27, 2014**

The Basel Declaration Society support and signs a document of the Wellcome Trust Foundation which turns against the Stop-Vivisection-Initiative

• **December 2–3, 2014**

Annual SGV Congress

Location: Zurich, Switzerland

BDS is present with its booth to make the animal welfare and regulatory community of Switzerland aware of the Basel Declaration and gain more supporters



Svende Pfundstein



Stand-Impression (SGV-Meeting in Zurich)

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 2010/63

CHAired BY EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES AND ASSOCIATIONS (EFPIA).

By Prof. Dr. Kevan Martin

This Federation has a particular interest in EU Animal legislation because they represent the Biopharmaceutical and special groups like vaccine manufacturers, nanotechnology and stem cell production.

Their science policy is aimed at securing the Industry's ability to continue to use live animals in Europe. Representatives were present from the Research Directors, the Research and Animal Welfare group and the European Pharma Security forum (e.g. transport and supply of animals).

Objectives of the meeting were to exchange information about good practice and identify the main difficulties in the implementation of the 2010 Directive, and form a written recommendation to the EC.

The format of the meeting was to take written submissions on 4 topics:

- Authorisation
- More Stringent National Measures
- Statistical Reporting
- Exceptions and New Functions

The present status of transposition of the Directive:

- All countries except Netherlands and Poland have complied
- Commission checks correspondence
- Infringement procedures started against Poland
- Additional guidance provided by EC

Whether the Directive is effective is the 'proof of the pudding'. The Directive sets reasonable balance between research needs and animal welfare, but it needs to be maintained.

Two right wing MEPs were promoting a ban on all animal testing.

More stringent national measures

- Extreme concern – Bans
- Worrying interpretation of Articles
- Nuisance – restrictive practices. Ban on e-learning for education of animal users
- Article 2 – Directive doesn't make provision for setting higher standards

Grey area

- Italy's ban on breeding higher mammals – is this a higher standard of ethical care?
- Biomedical research – life sciences – basic and applied – how do we make it competitive in EU?

Exceptions and new functions

Germany & UK

Max Planck Institute has many officers, including an Animal Welfare Officer (AWO). The role of the AWO varies greatly according to country. In the UK, the AWO is mandatory for each facility. Animals in Science Committee – appointed by the Government to advise the Minister. The UK has decided to keep what they have.

Portugal

The Government is stepping back. No welfare bodies – no new positions – but reorganisation within existing infrastructure and staffing, e.g. Head of Animal Facilities takes role of Information Officer. All institutions will have an animal protectionist plus ethicist.

UK

Providing information: Named Information Officer needs to provide info e.g. as to species-specific issues. Also, a Named Training Officer (who may also be the Information Officer and the Animal Welfare Officer, particularly in small facilities).

Authorisation

Problems encountered

- Serious delays
- Widespread minor delays to projects
- Complex bureaucracy

Local, Regional, Central?

- Q. What is 'local'?
- Central = Federal or national
- Local = regional or institutional

Examples

France

Authorisation is through the Ministry of Research.

Portugal

One person does the evaluations.

Are all countries compliant? What happens if a licence delayed? Can projects with positive ethical evaluation start without authorisation?

In UK there may be a lot of back and forth between the researcher and the local ethical committee, or the Home Office before the clock starts ticking.

There was general admiration of the UK system: 3 Licences granted by the Home Office: 1. Establishment. 2 Project licence (up to 5yr) 3. Personal licence. This allows the Project licence holder to bolt on more protocols as the project progresses. Review is at more technical level, not ethical. Centralisation of submission to the Home Office facilitates the projects. Provides a mechanism for rapid turnover of personnel.

Important note

The Directive states that the time between submission of a proposal and a decision should be no longer than 45–50 days, including the evaluation time. (This is certainly not always the case in canton Zurich.)

National Measures

- What we want to achieve?
- What can we do to address the issue?
- Who do we target?

Concerns

- Bans (breeding – use for drug research – ban a research area)
- Additional layers of bureaucracy
- Mandatory use of anaesthetics in Italy.
- Differences in severity.
- Locating breeders close to site of animal use, since not being able to get local animals is not best for animal welfare.
- But what about transport?
- Banning an activity, e.g. Production of monoclonals by acites?
- 1.9% procedures in Switzerland are ‘severe’. In UK it is 2.9%.

Statistical Reporting

April 2013 – IT group in EC website to develop statistical methods – will have data for 2014 by June 2015, e.g. Not required to collect info on ‘killing’. More burden on users, but this should provide a common platform for data collection.

Problems

Different member states have different methods of reporting – e.g. In Portugal and France, the institution, not individual researcher, reports animals used.

Animal numbers for 2014? Different severity criteria used by member states. Neurobiology severity classification by FENS must include lab animal science.

Enrichment? How does this change severity? Example given of a neuron migration mutant that dies, but in enrichment the animals survives.

Statistics – will be certainly unreliable for 2014. One strategy is to present the 2014 statistics to the public and politicians as a Pilot. The numbers need interpretation. Recommendations: Working group to look at areas of problems to iron out.

My conclusion

Remarkable differences exist between states in approach, infrastructure and staffing. States with mature legislation and more centralised coordination (UK, Germany) have paradoxically had most flexibility for implementing the Directive. Others like France have a complex and very individual and patchy framework (i.e. uncoordinated) for animal licencing and reporting. Yet others like Portugal are starting from the ground up with little new support for staffing and infrastructure from the Establishments or the government. (Switzerland is somewhere in between with some central coordination, but individual variation at the level of Cantons).

It seemed clear that the implementation of the Directive is subject to a great deal of local interpretation. It is also clear that there are major areas, e.g. statistical reporting, where there is no chance of homogeneity across the EU. This lack of transparency may be the tender underbelly that is exploited by animal rightists who will certainly be trying to strengthen the constraints of the Directive when it comes up for review. Hence the importance of pre-emptive counter proposals.

BDS PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA ECHO:

- **February 6, 2014 Nature, Vol 596**
The changing Face of Primate Research – A hard-won political victory for primate research is at risk of unravelling in pockets of Europa, by Alison Abbott
- **June 26, 2014, BDS Press Release**
Research for Life welcomes transparency in animal experiments – the number of animals used in experiments per year is declining (picked up by Interpharma on July 24, 2014, SGV Newsletter Summer 2014)
- **July 27, 2014, BDS Press Release**
(picked up by more than 360 online portals worldwide) Young Moscovite Researcher Receives this Year's "Basel Declaration Award for Education in Animal Research"
- **September 5, 2014, BDS Press Release**
picked up by ~100 online portals worldwide)
Air France accepts responsibility – Without animal transports the European research area will be significantly disrupted. European researchers fear for the worst.
- **September 23, 2014, Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich, Switzerland**
Letter to the editor
Rolf Zeller gives arguments why a restart of NHP research at the University of Zurich is important

REPORT BY VLADIMIR POPOV

WINNER OF THE 2014 BASEL DECLARATION AWARD FOR EDUCATION IN ANIMAL RESEARCH

First of all I am going to send many thanks to Basel Declaration Society and also to Dr. Philippe Bugnon. The course LTK-1 was a great opportunity for me to revise our laboratory practice and the way of lab animal husbandry in general.

I wish to inform you about our activity in disseminating modern approaches in laboratory animal science: After discussion with Phil, I revised the program of our training course. We make it more 'researcher-oriented': we have reduced the lectures relating to disinfection\sterilization and engineering issues in the lab animal facility. Instead of these parts, we increased the amount of time spent on the practical part. Our aim is to provide our participants with more practical skills.

In this autumn semester we have started a lecture course (it is an elective course for students who are going to work with lab animals in future). Until now I have given two lectures in this course: about ethical evaluation of animal experiments and about legislation (Russian and European). Also, we will be starting practical training for PhD students (for researchers who attended the lecture course last year) at the beginning of October.

Now we are preparing a document for package for the official authorities. The first step for us is to achieve recognition for our certificate by the authorities. I hope, that the process can be completed within several months. I am going to inform you and Basel Declaration Society about our steps.

Yours,
Vladimir Popov

MICE TIMES

Issue 9 (May 2014):

Precise and punctual: the cellular postal service

<http://www.basler-deklaration.ch/publications/mice-times/>

Issue 10 (September 2014):

Different standards of concern for animals in research, animals for human consumption and animals as human companions.

<http://www.basel-deklaration.org/publications/mice-times/>

10 | September 2014

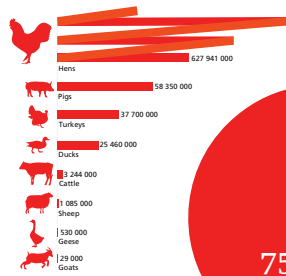
MICE TIMES

Different standards of concern for animals in research, animals for human consumption and animals as human companions. Germany with a population of around 80 million people

Farm animals (excluding fish)



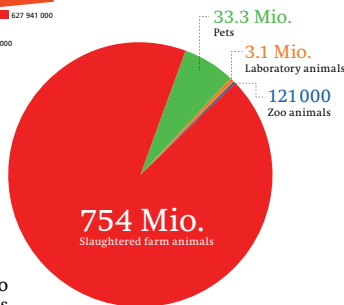
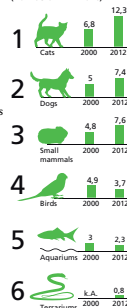
Animals slaughtered for human consumption (Germany 2012)



Pets



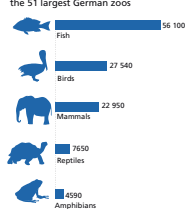
The pet population in Germany is (numbers in millions)



Zoo animals



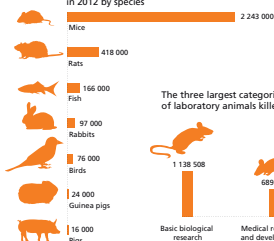
Vertebrate population in the 51 largest German zoos



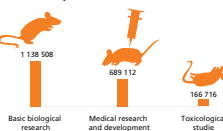
Laboratory animals



Laboratory animals killed in Germany in 2012 by species



The three largest categories of laboratory animals killed in 2012



Directive 2010/63 is being transformed into law in the different EU Member States. This is a complicated process that will continue until its successful completion. The aim is to ensure that laboratory animals are better protected and that their use is limited to what is strictly necessary for scientific purposes.

3Rs (Replace, Reduce, Refine) principles governing animal experimentation. The 3Rs: Reduce – only use the minimum number of animals for experiments; Refine – animals must be planned and performed using the least harmful methods, approaches and techniques; Replace – the use of animals must be avoided whenever possible, replaced by alternative methods (e.g. in vitro, computer simulations and models).

10/63 demands that laboratory animals be kept to the best and strictest standards and that their use is limited to what is strictly necessary for scientific purposes. For research on non-human primates (e.g. rhesus monkeys) strict hurdles have to be met to limit their use for animal experiments. Only specially trained personnel is permitted to handle them. For research on non-human primates (e.g. rhesus monkeys) strict hurdles have to be met to limit their use for animal experiments. Only specially trained personnel is permitted to handle them.

10/63 is a threat to Europe's biomedical research. The European Commission has announced a series of measures to improve the standards of animal experimentation, opponents of animal experimentation have collected more than one million signatures in support of the initiative.

Ever fewer dogs, cats and monkeys in biomedical research
Contrary to perception of certain parts of the general public, the numbers of dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits and monkeys participating in animal studies are continuously reduced. Currently, they account for about 0.2 percent of all laboratory animals. But as the opponents of animal research continue to use the images of these animals in their campaigns, which are particularly close to people's hearts, a fraction of citizens are manipulated into continuing to campaign against any type of animal experimentation. Furthermore, philosophers and animal advocates continue to request the implementation of citizens' rights for animals into the EU legislation.

What do the statistics say?
Considering the statistics of animal use by humans reveals how inconsistently we humans behave concerning animals. We pamper our pets and more and more consider them as companions and best friends. For them, we request the best possible pharmaceutical and biotech products to be introduced into veterinary medicine, which were developed by animal experimentation to the benefit of human health. At the same time, many continue to consume meat produced cheaply and in general at the expense of animal welfare and animal health. In fact, it would be possible to reduce meat consumption to levels that can be sustained and satisfy high level animal welfare as is the case for animal studies. Animal studies continue to be an essential part of both fundamental and applied biomedical research. They provide fundamental insights into complex biological processes and diseases, are needed to produce vaccines and the next generation of new and effective medicines. While much analysis and drug development is already done in cells, ultimately complex biological processes and new drugs have to be tested in a living organism and in this respect, animals are the only possible options if we refrain from currently illegal and risky primary testing in humans.

10/63 is a threat to Europe's biomedical research. The European Commission has announced a series of measures to improve the standards of animal experimentation, opponents of animal experimentation have collected more than one million signatures in support of the initiative.

Source: Die Zeit | 15 May 2014 | Illustration: Anne Gredes (durch die Redaktion vermittelt) | Recherche: Malte Wenner

illegal vivisection, but to ban all animal experimentation in biomedical and toxicology research. If this were to be implemented, the future of one of the most important and innovative research sectors and the Pharmaceutical and Biotech industry of Europe would be put at complete risk and to the serious disadvantage of any efforts to improve human health. In September 2014, this citizens' initiative is to be presented the newly elected members of EU parliament. The first hearings before a parliamentary committee are scheduled already for October.

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www.basel-deklaration.org

Editorial staff: Board of the Basel Declaration Society

Forschung für Leben

www.forschung-fuer-leben.ch
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FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT THE BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY

Members

Individual Members of the BDS(September, 30 2014):

225 (per 31.12.2013: 150)

Institutional Members (30 September, 30 2014):

8 (per 31.12.2013: 2)

Signers of the Basel Declaration

Individual Signers:

(September 30, 2014): 3460 (2013: 1907)

Institutional Signers:

(September 30, 2014): 43 (2013: 29)

Ambassadors

(September 30, 2014): 153 (2013: 139)

Twitter

In April 2013, we began a Twitter account under the user-name @BaselDec. 224 (145) people are following the site.

PayPal

Since the summer of 2013, PayPal has been installed on the Basel Declaration Society Website. This significantly simplifies the process of paying dues by our members from around the world. We hope donations will also be made through this channel.

Sponsors 2014



interpharmaph



Become a member of the Basel Declaration Society

We look for your support to publicly show that we are committed to the 3R principle (Replace, Reduce, Refine), i.e., plan and carry out animal testing in your area of expertise with utmost care, and contribute to providing society with open and transparent information about animal experiments.

We encourage scientists, veterinarians, animal caretakers and everyone with an interest in supporting the Basel Declaration principles for animal research to become a member of our society:

Membership fee for **individuals**: CHF/€/€ 50 per year.

The suggested membership fees for **institutions/organisations** are CHF/€/€ 500 per year, but the exact membership fee for institutions and organizations should be discussed with our management office during the process of joining the BDS.

Please complete the membership form on: www.basel-declaration.org and pay your

membership fee by PayPal
(click the button on www.basel-declaration.org)

or alternatively by Bank transfer:
IBAN: CH89 0077 0253 1612 3200 1
Swift code: BKBBCHBBXXX PC
Bank: Basler Kantonalbank
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And moreover, every donation – small or big – will help us make the difference in 2014!

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