Research RTD, 6th framework programme 2002-2006: funding for projects on stem cells

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The committee adopted the report by Peter LIESE (EPP-ED, D) amending the proposal under the consultation procedure as follows: - whereas the Commission was proposing that human embryos used for the procurement of stem cells must have been created before 27 June 2002 (the date of adoption of the 6th framework programme), the committee said that the embryos must be 'supernumerary' early-stage (i.e. up to 14 days) but did not specify a cut-off date for their creation; - any decision on whether or not to allow funding of research on the use of human stem cells should depend both on the contents of the scientific proposal and the legal framework of the Member States involved; - support should also be given to research projects using adult somatic stem cells and umbilical cord blood cells; - research using adult stem cells and reprogrammed adult cells should get priority for financing; - research on embryo or foetal stem cells deriving from spontaneous or therapeutic abortion may be funded; - the prior agreement of the parents must be secured in cases where embryos are to be destroyed in order to produce human embryonic stem cell lines; - the Commission should set up a European register of embryonic stem cells, using the experience of the NIH (a leading US public medical research centre); - the list of research projects funded under the 6th framework programme involving the use of human embryonic stem cells, which is to be published yearly by the Commission, must include a justification stating why other procedures were not usable.