Blood and plasma donors: suitability and screening. Recommendation

1997/0315(CNS) - 05/05/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal the Commission accepted 16 of the 29 amendments adopted by Parliament and rejected 11. Among the significant amendments incorporated into the amended proposal, special reference should be made to the following: - CJD is taken into account in the recommendation, - establishment of national measures for the collection, analysis, publication and updating of epidemiological data using common definitions and criteria that are comparable throughout the Community, including data on viral markers, - assurance that the deferral criteria for blood donors are based on sound scientific evidence (where such evidence is not available the precautionary principle should prevail), - identification of prospective donors and data verification by means of a unique coding system, - use of the same types of screening tests for both blood and plasma donations. With regard to the questionnaire, the Commission accepted Parliament's amendments on: - the deletion from the questionnaire of a question concerning a spouse who is HIV positive and the sexual activity of a prospective donor in countries other than Africa, - the addition of questions on the sexual behaviour of the prospective donor outside the Community (with the possibility of specifying which countries) and details of travel outside the Community, - the addition of questions on the sexual behaviour of the prospective donor that places them at risk of transmitting infectious diseases.