Blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community

1994/2228(COS) - 17/04/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Christian CABROL (UPE, F) on the communication from the Commission on blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community. Parliament noted the European goal of self-sufficiency and called for the abolition of laws and administrative provisions which prevent the free circulation of plasma-derived products in the European Union. Reaffirming that the human body and its parts are inalienable and non-marketable, it stressed the need to take measures to guarantee maximum safety in blood supplies, but on the basis of voluntary, unpaid donations. It hoped, in particular, that support would be given to blood donor associations and voluntary organizations and called for the organization of a European Blood Donation Day. Parliament also called for common regulations to be drawn up applicable to the whole of the blood transfusion chain concerning the selection of donors, the devising of technical quality tests for screening for transmissible viral infections and identifying bacteria and parasites, the treatment of blood, plasma or blood derivatives (conservation and storage conditions) and its rational use. Wherever possible Parliament intends to promote the use of self-transfusion, for which there should be appropriate information. Parliament called on the Commission to support research activity on blood screening tests and to standardize infectious markers and also to launch and/or support action of all kinds which seeks to encourage the dissemination of information about blood and blood products and collection, treatment and transfusion procedures. It also stressed the need for appropriate training for health professionals. It called for a recognition of the significant safety benefits arising from donors who donate repeatedly and for the setting up of a European Blood Safety Supervisory Body responsible for monitoring blood from the time of collection to the time of use. Finally, it called for consideration of the possibility of harmonizing the granting of licences to organizations involved in the collection, treatment, processing and distribution of blood and blood derivatives in the European Union.