Resolution on the trade in human egg cells

2005/2520(RSP) - 10/03/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the trade in embryos with 307 votes in favour, 199 against and 25 abstentions, Parliament recalls that the human body should not be a source of financial gain and that particular attention should be paid to vulnerable individuals at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, particularly women.

Parliament calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment as soon as possible of national legislation on egg cell donation and the compensation system for the donation of organs and reproductive cells, and to make this assessment public. Equally, it considers that one of the essential issues in practice is the need to provide infertile couples awaiting an egg donation with a real solution, and calls on the Commission to intensify and strengthen alternatives for the prevention and treatment of infertility. It wishes to see egg cell donation, like organ donation generally, strictly regulated in order to protect both donors and recipients and to tackle all forms of human exploitation.

The House stresses that any woman forced to sell part of her body, including reproductive cells, becomes prey to organised crime networks that traffic in people and organs. Parliament also calls on the Commission to ascertain whether such cases also occur in other Member States, candidate countries or third countries. MEPs call on the Member States to take measures to prevent the exploitation of women in the application of life science.

Lastly, Parliament welcomes the decision of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations of 18 February 2005, and asks the Commission accordingly to exclude human cloning from funding under the 7th Research Framework Programme. Finally, Parliament asks the Commission to apply the subsidiarity principle in connection with other forms of embryo research and embryonic stem cell research so that Member States in which this kind of research is legal fund it from their national budgets. The House considers that EU funding should concentrate on alternatives like somatic stem cell and umbilical cord stem cell research, which are accepted in all Member States and have already led to successful treatment of patients.