Basic information

2002/2279(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Breast cancer in the European Union **Subject** 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	JÖNS Karin (PSE)	26/11/2002

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/02/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/04/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
24/04/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0159/2003	
05/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0270/2003	Summary
05/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
05/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/2279(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/5/19187

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0159/2003	24/04/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0270/2003 OJ C 068 18.03.2004, p. 0335-0611 E	05/06/2003	Summary

Breast cancer in the European Union

2002/2279(INI) - 05/06/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the own-initiative report drafted by Karin JÖNS (PES, Germany) on breast cancer. (Please see the summary of 24 /04/03.) As well as setting a target of creating, by 2008, the conditions required for a 25% reduction in the average breast-cancer mortality rate, Member States should also aim to reducing to 5% the disparity between the Member States in the five-year survival rate. This follows from the 1999 Eurocare Study, which demonstrated that in the various Member States, there were unacceptable disparities by up to 16% in the survival rates of breast cancer patients. These were attributed to, inter alia, disparities in access to screening, diagnosis and treatment. Parliament expressed its concern at the possible consequences of the granting by the European Patent Office of patents on BRC AC 1 and BRC A2 ('breast cancer') genes. It asked the EPO to reconsider the patenting of these genes. The Council, the Commission and the Member States must ensure that the human genetic code is freely available for research throughout the world and that medical applications of certain human genes are not impeded by monopolies based on patents. Finally, Parliament was concerned at the comparatively poor survival rates for women suffering from breast cancer in the accession countries. The Commission is asked to arrange a structured exchange of experience with the future Member States.