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20 March 2000

B5-0295/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by the following Members: Le Pen, de Gaulle, Gollnisch, Lang, Martinez,
Frank Vanhecke and Speroni

on behalf of the TDI Group

on the cloning of human beings

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B5-0295/2000

Resolution on the cloning of human beings

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply shocked that the European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich has granted the University of Edinburgh and the Australian biotechnology firm Stem Cell Sciences a patent that could lead to human cloning,
- B. recalling the case of Dolly the sheep born in 1996 from an udder cell taken from an adult ewe,
- C. whereas genetic engineering, progress in medically-assisted procreation and the patenting of living matter will inevitably lead researchers to experiment with cloning human beings,
- D. Noting that, with the ill-considered development of in vitro fertilisation, humankind is becoming remote from the process of reproduction, which is inevitably leading to the dissociation of reproduction from fertilisation and resulting in criminal abuse,
 - 1. Recalls that human life can in no circumstances become a man-made creation;
 - 2. Makes a formal appeal to the Member States that they impose a definitive ban on the appropriation of living matter and the cloning of human embryos;
 - 3. Recalls that the European directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions will enter into force on 30 June 2000; it explicitly prohibits human cloning by stipulating that 'the human body, at any stage in its formation or development, including germ cells, and the simple discovery of one of its elements or one of its products, including the sequence or partial sequence of a human gene, cannot be patented;
 - 4. Hopes that the European Patent Office in Munich will impose exemplary penalties on those who allowed such a patent to be granted;
 - 5. Demands that, in future, the granting of patents in such sensitive areas as biotechnologies should be strictly regulated;
 - 6. Considers that no-one has the right to appropriate human life and that any breach of the moral standards that ensure the protection of life constitutes a crime against humanity in the literal meaning of the term;
 - 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Member States and the national ethics committees.