

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

7.3.2005

B6-0199/2005

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission
pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure
by Urszula Krupa, Kathy Sinnott and Johannes Blokland
on behalf of the IND/DEM Group
on the trade in human egg cells

European Parliament resolution on the trade in human egg cells

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, in particular Article 152(4)a thereof,
 - having regard to the trade in human egg cells planned by the United Kingdom and Romania,
 - having regard to the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular Article 3 thereof,
 - restating its opinion that trading in human cells and tissues should be prohibited,
 - having regard to Directive 2004/23/EC of 31 March 2004 on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas there are credible reports of planned trading in human egg cells between United Kingdom and Romanian hospitals,
- B. whereas Article 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights states that ‘making the human body and its parts as such a source of financial gain’ is prohibited,
- C. whereas Article 12 of the Directive on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells explicitly states that payment for cell and tissue donations in Europe is not acceptable and that cells and tissues as such must not be subject to trade,
- D. whereas the procurement of cells may not be subject to any pressure or incentive, but the voluntary and unpaid donation of egg cells must be guaranteed, so that women do not become ‘suppliers of raw material’,
- E. whereas the harvesting of egg cells constitutes a high medical risk for the life and health of women, resulting inter alia from hyperstimulation of the ovaries,
- F. whereas the planned egg cell trade will exploit the economic situation of Sinti and Roma women in particular,
- G. whereas, despite the possibility of serious effects on women’s life and health, the high price paid for egg cells incites and encourages donation, given the relative poverty of the donors and the state of the Romanian economy,

- H. whereas the promise of financial incentives could cause a woman, especially one who is in a state of economic need, to consider the sale of her ova, possibly resulting in serious risks to her own life and health, as well as to the recipient, as the donor might not disclose a medical history or medical risks that would make donation inadvisable,
1. Considers that a financial reward of £1,000 for egg cell donation does not constitute a form of compensation but a form of payment, and is thus contrary to the stated policy of the European Union;
 2. Considers that such an exercise is unacceptable and a serious exploitation of women, especially Sinti and Roma women, who are part of a minority; takes the view that such an exercise between the UK and Romanian hospitals can be regarded as an unacceptable trade constituting exploitation of women;
 3. Calls on the Commission to take measures to prevent this serious breach of European law;
 4. Calls on the United Kingdom Government to stop the planned trading of egg cells between United Kingdom and Romanian clinics;
 5. Calls on Members of the UK Parliament to follow the dictates of their conscience and vote to stop the trade in egg cells with Romanian medical centres;
 6. Calls on the Commission to ascertain whether such cases also occur in other Member States and other candidate and third countries;
 7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States, especially the United Kingdom.