

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2946/03  
by Dana Scallon (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:            Specific programme for research

In the European Commission explanatory memorandum of the proposal for a Council Decision amending decision 2002/834/EC on the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration 'Integrating and strengthening the European research area' (2002-2006), (COM (2003) 390 final), it is said that in the course of the ethical review, there will be an assessment of whether a free, express and informed consent of the donors has been obtained.

As it is intended that the stem cells for research will be obtained from early stage human embryos, can the Commission confirm :

- who will donate the stem cells, from whom will they be harvested?
  
- How will it intend to obtain consent from these human beings who will donate their stem cells, who are not able to communicate verbally or orally at this specific stage of their development?