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Deutscher Bundestag

Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin

European Commission
Mr. Romano Prodi, President

per Fax 0032 – 2 – 2 99 08 42

Berlin, Juli 1, 2003

Today's Commission Meeting - Sixth Framework Programme for Research (FP6) – Embryos

Dear Mr. President,

As initiators of an inter-party parliamentary motion ***European Union Research Funding Respecting Ethical and Constitutional Principles of Member States*** we are writing to you with an urgent request.

Today in Strasbourg the Commission will decide on a proposal for a Council decision ***Amending Decision 834/2002/EC of 30 September on the Specific Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration: Integration and Strengthening the European Research Area (2002-2006)***.

We vigorously reject the Commission's intention to propose Community funding for research activities in which human embryos are destroyed.

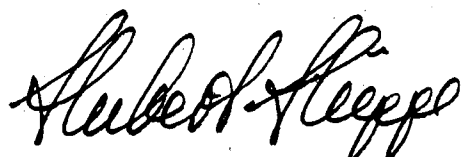
Community funding for research activities may only be considered if these research activities qualify for funding in the view of all member states. Destroying human embryos for the purpose of stem cell procurement is against the law in several member states, among them Germany. Such research cannot therefore achieve the unanimous consent of member states.

Community research funding will establish a bioethical benchmark for the common market for science and technology. This fundamental decision must not be in insurmountable conflict with constitutional principles and the penal law regulations of member states and must not undermine the legal standing of such national regulations.

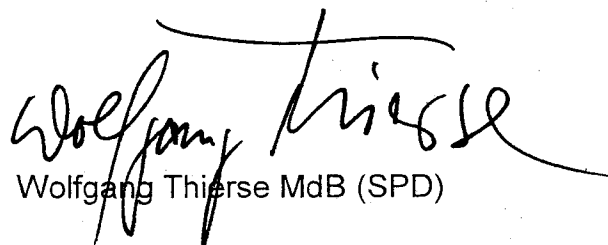
We therefore reject a possible proposal to allow for Community funding of the procurement of stem cells from human embryos that have been created by medically-assisted in vitro fertilisation before a certain date. The only compromise that might be acceptable would be Community funding for stem cell lines isolated before a certain date.

Please, find attached a copy of our inter-party parliamentary motion.

Yours sincerely,



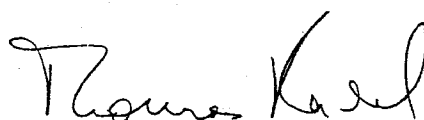
Hubert Hüppe MdB (CDU/CSU)



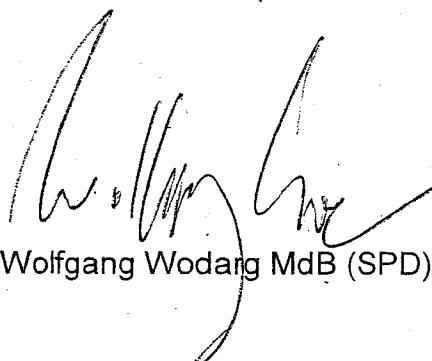
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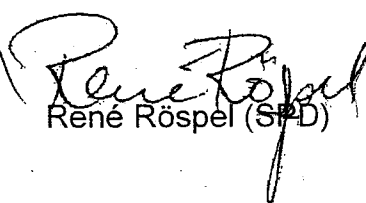
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