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The European Commission

Secretariat-General of the Commission

European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies



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The European
CommissionSecretariat-General
of the Commission**European Group on Ethics
in Science and New Technologies**

From the Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology		
To the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies		
	Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology	European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies
Common Features:	<p>Advisory, independent and multi-disciplinary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>Members of the Group are appointed by the European Commission on the basis of their personal competence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>The Secretariat-General of the Commission is responsible for the Secretariat of the Group,</p> <p>Which allows for a horizontal approach to the Commission's fields of activities</p>	
	Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology	European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies
Creation:	Decision of 20 November 1991	Decision of 16 December 1997
Members:	<p>1992-1994: 6 Members</p> <p>Lady Mary Warnock (UK), Ms Noëlle Lenoir (F), Dr Margareta Mikkelsen (DK), Mr Marcelino Oreja (E), Prof. Marcello Siniscalco (I), Prof. Hans Zacher (D)</p> <p>1994-1997: 9 Members</p> <p>Ms Noëlle Lenoir (F), Dr Anne McLaren (UK), Dr Margareta Mikkelsen (DK), Prof. Luis Archer (P), Prof. Gilbert Hottois</p>	<p>1998: 12 Members</p> <p>Ms Noëlle Lenoir (F), Ms Paula Martinho Da Silva (P), Dr Anne McLaren (UK), Prof. Marja Sorsa (SF), Prof. Ina Wagner (A), Prof. Göran Hermerén (S), Prof. Gilbert Hottois (B), Prof. Dietmar Mieth (D), Mr Octavi Quintana Trias (E), Prof. Stefano Rodota (I), Prof. Egbert Schrotten (NL), Prof. Peter Whittaker (IR)</p>

	(B), Prof. Dietmar Mieth (D), Mr Octavi Quintana Trias (E), Prof. Stefano Rodota (I), Prof. Egbert Schrotten (NL)	
Remit:	Modern Biotechnology	Science and New Technologies
	Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology	European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies
Disciplines:	Law, Science, Medicine, Philosophy, Theology	Law, Science, Medicine, Philosophy, Theology, Sociology, Informatics
Request for Opinions:	Request by the Commission or on its own initiative	Request by the Commission and if the case may be by request of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union or on its own initiative
Term of office:	2 years	3 years
Working Methods:	Free	Rules of procedure by the Group


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*European Group on Ethics
in Science and New Technologies*



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December 1997

REMIT

of the

European Group on Ethics

in Science and New Technologies

1

A European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, hereafter the "Group", is hereby established.

2 - Remit and request for opinions

The task of the Group shall be to advise the Commission on all ethical questions relating to science and new technologies, either at the request of the Commission or on its own initiative. The Commission shall, when seeking the opinion of the Group, set a time limit within which such opinion shall be given.

3 - Composition

The Group shall have twelve members appointed for their competence and personal qualities. It shall be multidisciplinary.

4 - Appointment

The members of the Group shall be appointed by the



Commission.

5 - Term of office

Each member of the Group shall be appointed for a term of three years. This term shall be renewable once. A member who resigns before completion of the term of office shall be replaced for the remainder of the term in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4.

6 - Reimbursement of expenses

Travel and subsistence expenses for the Group's meetings shall be covered by the Commission in accordance with the relevant administrative rules.

7 - Chair

The Group shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members for the duration of the term of office.

8 - Deliberations

The Group's deliberations shall be confidential. The Group may invite any person with specialist qualifications to take part in its proceedings as an expert on a given topic on the agenda. Experts shall take part only in discussions of those agenda items for which they were invited.

9 - Working groups

The Group may set up working groups to consider specific issues.

10 - Secretariat

The Group shall be convened by the Commission. The Secretariat-General of the Commission, acting in close cooperation with the Group's chairperson, shall be responsible for organising the work of the Group and its secretariat.

11 - Opinions

Where an opinion is not adopted unanimously, it shall include any competing or dissenting point of view. Every opinion shall be published immediately after its adoption.

12 - Rules of Procedure

The Group shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

13 - Report of activities

A report on the Group's activities shall be produced under the responsibility of the chairperson before the end of its term of office. The report shall be published.



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THE EUROPEAN GROUP ON ETHICS
IN SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

20 July 1998

RULES OF PROCEDURE

A. General Dispositions

1. The activities of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (hereafter the "Group"), instituted as an independent body, are governed by these rules of procedure.
2. The task of the Group is to examine ethical questions arising from science and new technologies and on this basis to issue Opinions.
3. Members of the Group deliberate freely and in total independence.

B. President and Vice-President

4. The Group elects a President and a Vice-President.
5. A candidate for either position will be deemed elected when he/she attains an absolute majority of the votes of the members of the Group. If this is not achieved on the first ballot, a second ballot is held between the two candidates who obtained the highest number of votes. Tied votes are decided either by voluntary withdrawal of one of the candidates or by lottery.
6. The President will have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Institutional representation of the Group;
 - b. Preparation of the Agenda for meetings of the Group;
 - c. Acting as Chairperson of meetings of the Group;
 - d. Direction of the Group's activities;
 - e. Relationships with the European Institutions and other bodies;
 - f. Preparation of the annual report of activities for approval by the Group;
 - g. Organization of relations with the media.
7. The President may be substituted by the Vice-President upon her/his being unable to attend. If neither the President nor the Vice-President is able to attend a particular meeting, the President may delegate another Group member to chair that meeting.
8. The Vice-President assists the President in carrying out the responsibilities listed in Article 6.

C. Meetings of the Group

9. The Group meets usually monthly and whenever a meeting is requested by the majority of the members.
10. The Group usually meets at the offices of the European Commission in Brussels. It also meets, at least once a year, outside Brussels in one of the Member States.
11. The Group may take decisions only when at least seven members of the Group are present.
12. All meetings are convened at least ten days in advance, the date of the meeting and agenda to be communicated at that time. Shorter notice may be given when there are urgent matters to discuss.
13. Any member may request that a specific item is included in the relevant agenda.
14. Minutes of sessions are drafted and, once approved at the following meeting, are signed by the President.
15. The Group may invite any of the following to attend meetings of the Group:
 - a. Representatives of the responsible services of the European Commission;
 - b. Representatives of other Institutions of the European Union;
 - c. Experts appointed by the Group;
 - d. Other interested parties.
16. For every Opinion to be issued by the Group, one or more round-table discussions may be held, to which representatives of the Institutions of the European Union and parties representing different interests are invited to present their viewpoints. Before final formulation of an Opinion, the minutes of these discussions are forwarded to all participants for comments.
17. The Group may decide to hold public hearings on a topic, involving experts.

D. External Relations

18. Group members participating in external meetings on behalf of the Group, send all relevant documentation to the Secretariat for distribution to Group members.
19. The Group aims to have close relations with the Institutions of the European Union. To that end, the Group or individual members of the Group may address the European Commission, the European Parliament or the Council of the European Union at their request.

E. Opinions

General Rules

20. The Group issues Opinions at the request of the European Commission. It can also issue Opinions at the request of the European Parliament or the Council of the European Union, or on its own initiative.
21. The Group prioritizes the topics to be considered.
22. The Opinions of the Group normally contain:
 - a. An indication of all documentation considered by the Group in arriving at an Opinion, each item to be preceded by the words "Having regard to".
 - b. An indication of any proposals, opinions and consultations of relevance also preceded by the words "Having regard to".
 - c. The considerations and the reasons "for and against" relevant to the issue under discussion preceded by the word "Whereas".
 - d. The wording "issues the following Opinion", followed by the text of the Opinion presented in the form of paragraphs.
23. For each topic the Group appoints one or more rapporteurs from amongst its members. The rapporteurs are responsible for drafting the Opinion and, usually, of a preliminary report.
24. For each topic, the Group usually appoints one or more experts who produce a study summarizing the scientific and legal background and the ethical questions arising from the current situation and from anticipated future developments.
25. The deliberations of the Group are confidential.

Adoption of an Opinion

26. The Opinion is in principle adopted by consensus. It is only adopted when the majority of members of the Group is in favour. Where there is dissension, this is recorded, alongside the majority Opinion. All assenting members of the Group sign the agreed Opinion. The dissenting member(s) sign the dissenting opinion. Votes may take place on single paragraphs, before the final vote on the Opinion. Once signed, the Opinion is final. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

Distribution of an Opinion

27. Each Opinion adopted by the Group is forwarded to the European Commission by the President of the Group. It is also forwarded to the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union. Moreover, the Group makes public each Opinion at a press conference, or by a press release. Opinions are available on request from the Secretariat of the Group.
28. Studies by expert authors appointed by the Group may only be forwarded to third persons or published with the agreement of the Group and the European

Commission and must include the following mention: “Study ordered by the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies to the European Commission”.

E. Annual Report of Activities

29. The President of the Group prepares an annual report of activities approved by the Group. This report is forwarded to the President of the European Commission, to the President of the European Parliament and to the President of the Council of the European Union.
30. The report of activities is published and sent to all contact persons of the Group and to the press.

F. Information and Communication

31. In order to promote its objectives, the Group publishes information relating to its activities by any appropriate means including publications, brochures and Internet.

G. International Co-operation

32. Every second year, the Group organizes a conference with representatives of national ethics bodies of the Member States and other states in order to discuss questions of common interest.
33. The Group may also organize conferences with national authorities responsible for data protection.
34. These conferences are held in Brussels or in any other Member State.
35. The Group follows the work of other international organizations, public authorities and NGOs that discuss ethical implications of developments in science and new technologies.

H. Administration of the Group

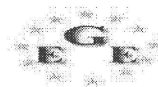
36. The European Commission provides administrative and financial support necessary for the running of the Group. The Group’s Secretariat at the European Commission assists the Group in all its tasks. The Group may receive information and assistance from the European Commission services through cooperation of the latter with the Group’s Secretariat.

I. Final Dispositions

37. These rules may be modified by the majority of the Group.



European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies



The Group has twelve members :



They are appointed for their competence and personal qualities. They come from different countries and represent a variety of different disciplines (biology and genetics, medicine, informatics, law, sociology, philosophy, theology).

	Ms Noëlle LENOIR (France), President Judge at the French "Conseil Constitutionnel", Former President of the International Committee on Bioethics of the UNESCO
	Mr Octavi QUINTANA TRIAS (Spain), Vice-President Medical Doctor, Senior Adviser at the Ministry for Public Health
	Ms Paula MARTINHO DA SILVA (Portugal) Lawyer, Member of the National Ethics Committee for Life Sciences
	Dr Anne McLAREN (United Kingdom) Geneticist, Research Associate at Wellcome CRC Institute, Cambridge
	Prof. Marja SORSA (Finland) Biologist, Professor of Genetic Toxicology, Director at the Ministry of Education
	Prof. Ina WAGNER (Austria) Professor for Multidisciplinary Systems Designs and Computer-Supported Cooperative Work, Technical University of Vienna
	Prof. Göran HERMERÉN (Sweden) Philosopher, Professor of Medical Ethics, Chairman of the Department of Medical Ethics, Lund University



Prof. Gilbert HOTTOIS (Belgium)
Philosopher, Professor at the "Université Libre" of Brussels, Co-Director of Research Center for Bioethics, member of the Advisory Bioethics Committee of Belgium



Prof. Dietmar MIETH (Germany)
Philosopher and Theologian, Professor of Theology Ethics, Chairman of the Center for Ethics in Science and Humanities at the University of Tübingen



Prof. Stefano RODOTA (Italy)
Lawyer, Professor of Civil Law, Director of the Competent Authority on the Protection of Private Data



Prof. Egbert SCHROTEN (The Netherlands)
Philosopher and Theologian, Professor of Christian Ethics, Director of the University Center for Bioethics and Health Law, University of Utrecht



Prof. Peter WHITTAKER (Ireland)
Biologist, Professor of Biology, Head of the Biology Department, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

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Secretariat-General
of the Commission

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