Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Creation of Embryos with Genetic Material from More than Two Progenitor Persons

Written declaration No. 557

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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1. Considering that the modification of human eggs or of early embryos for procreation using heritable (germ-line) interventions through the use of genetic material external to the entirety of the two parents' hereditary information (their genomes) is a eugenic practice;

2. Considering that:

– The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights indicates in Article 24 that "germ-line interventions' could be considered as practices which are 'contrary to human dignity";

– The Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine indicates in Article 13 that "an intervention seeking to modify the human genome may only be undertaken for preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic purposes and only if its aim is not to introduce any modification in the genome of any descendants".

This means, according to paragraph 91 of the explanatory report for Article 13, that:

– "Interventions seeking to introduce any modification in the genome of any descendants are prohibited. Consequently, in particular genetic modifications of spermatozoa or ova for fertilisation are not allowed";

– The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union indicates in Article 3 that "In the fields of medicine and biology (...) the prohibition of eugenic practices, in particular those aiming at the selection of persons, must be respected".

The undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly affirm that the creation of children with genetic material from more than two progenitor persons, as is being proposed by the United Kingdom Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, is incompatible with human dignity and international law.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD
BENEYTO José María, Spain, EPP/CD
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD
CENTEMERO Elena, Italy, NR
CIOCH Henryk, Poland, NR
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC
CROSIO Jonny, Italy, EDG
CSÖBÖR Katalin, Hungary, EPP/CD
CZELEJ Grzegorz, Poland, NR
DAMYANOVA Milena, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
DRĂGHICI Damian, Romania, SOC
DUNDEE Alexander, [The Earl of], United Kingdom, EDG
DZURINDA Mikuláš, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
FLANAGAN Terence, Ireland
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GIRZYŃSKI Zbigniew, Poland, NR
GRUBER Attila, Hungary, EPP/CD
GULYÁS Gergely, Hungary, EPP/CD
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KAMIŃSKI Mariusz, Poland, NR
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KAPETANOVIĆ Nermina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EDG
MATUŠIĆ Frano, Croatia, EPP/CD
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, NR
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
PINTADO Ángel, Spain, EPP/CD
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
RADZISZEWSKA Elżbieta, Poland, EPP/CD
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
SZÉL Bernadett, Hungary, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
VEJKEY Imre, Hungary, EPP/CD
WACH Piotr, Poland, EPP/CD
ZBONIKOWSKI Łukasz, Poland, NR

Total = 41

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1. EDG: European Democrat Group
   EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
   SOC: Socialist Group
   NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group