

Press Release

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Council of Europe marks 9th European Day for Organ Donation and Transplants with a European Conference in Ireland

Strasbourg, 09.10.2007 - To mark the 9th European Day for Organ Donation and Transplants, the Council of Europe has organised with the Irish Association, IKA (Irish Kidney Association), an international conference on 'organ transplantation: experiences in Europe, the role of the Council of Europe and the Committee director on organ transplants, the impact of national legislation and an analysis of limiting factors and new strategies.'

The idea behind this Day, initiated by the Council of Europe, is to help a different member state each year to encourage debate on these social questions and thereby help to improve organ donation and transplantation.

This year's event will take place on 13 October in Dun Laoghaire (Dublin) in the presence of the Irish president, Mary McAleese, who will make a speech at 11.30 am.

Open to the press, the conference will be opened at 9.30 am by:
Mr Mark Murphy, Executive Director of IKA (Irish Kidney Association)
Dr John Donohoe, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

The morning session will focus on the host country, Ireland, and Dr Bernard Loty, president of the Steering Committee on organ transplants (CD-P-TO), will speak about the Council of Europe policy in this field.

During the afternoon session other countries and associations will present their experiences.

This conference is a contribution to reflection on a national and international level regarding questions concerning organ donation and transplantation at a time when enormous disparities still exist within the different European states.

For a full programme and further information please consult the following web sites:
www.edqm.eu and www.ika.ie

Through its activities in the field of organ transplantation, the Council of Europe contributes actively to the implementation of high-level demands for the protection of public health and the promotion of human rights and dignity.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.

Note to editors
Bernard Loty

Dr Bernard Loty is the Medical & Scientific Director of the Agence de la biomédecine française. This national agency, competent in the fields of transplantation, procreation and human embryo genetics, succeeded the Etablissement français des greffes, of which Dr Loty was the Medical Director and to which he has devoted his working life since its creation in 1994.

Before joining the Etablissement français des Greffes, Dr Loty was an orthopaedic surgeon at the Cochin hospital in Paris. He has twenty years experience in the field of orthopaedic surgery, tissue banks and over 70 publications and 200 conferences and presentations demonstrate his scientific activities.

Dr Loty is a Doctor of Medicine (University of Paris VII), a Doctor of Biomechanics (University of Paris V), he is qualified in Public health (Nancy School of Medicine) and qualified in Health Law (University of Paris V, Law school).

A member of numerous scientific societies, he is also an expert at the European Union, at the Council of Europe, at the World Health Organisation, at the OCDE (Organisation on Economic co-operation and development) and at AIEA (international agency of atomic energy).