

European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare, Council of Europe: Organ Transplantation Activities

Mission

Through its activities in the field of transplantation, the Council of Europe contributes actively in the implementation of high standards for the protection of public health and for the promotion of human rights and dignity since 1987.

Since 2007, the Secretariat of the activities related to organ, tissue and cell transplantation were transferred to the EDQM¹, and the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO) is in charge of steering and co-ordinating the actions of the Council of Europe² in this field.

Council of Europe member states, countries party to the European Pharmacopoeia convention, observer countries, the European Commission, the World Health Organization, representatives of relevant Council of Europe Committees (European Health and European Bioethics Committees) and several non-governmental organisations are represented on this Committee.

European Committee of Experts on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO)

The Committee of Experts on the Organisational Aspects of Cooperation in Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO) was set up following the 3rd Conference of European Health Ministers in Paris in 1987 on the ethical, organisational and legislative aspects of organ transplantation. The CD-P-TO undertakes to:

- examine questions related to the transplantation of organs, tissues and cells, as regards quality and safety standards and their implementation;
- examine transplantation organisational structures, with a view to improving these structures and addressing the causes of organ shortage;
- develop links between the organ exchange organisations throughout Europe;
- propose and monitor ethical quality and safety standards for professional practices in Europe;
- assess risks linked to transplantation;
- advise the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on necessary recommendations in the field;

¹ The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare protects and promotes public and animal health in Europe by establishing high quality standards for:

- * Human and veterinary medicinal products,
- * Blood transfusion and organ transplantation,
- * The safe and appropriate use of medicines.

² 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.

³ A foundation that helps those whose mobility is reduced by chronic illness and promotes organ donation and transplantation.

- ensure the transfer of knowledge and expertise and develop competencies of experts through training and networking;
- contribute to raising awareness among citizens on organ donation for transplantation;
- assist member states in improving organ transplantation services by promoting the principle of voluntary non-remunerated donations.

The Committee meets at least once each year for two days.

Recent Resolutions and Recommendations

- Elaboration of two Resolutions in collaboration with the Bioethics Committee of the Council of Europe (CDBI) on living donation issues: living donor kidney transplantation and living donor liver transplantation, which were adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 March 2008 and 12 March 2008, respectively.
- Recommendation (2006)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on "background, functions and responsibilities of a National Transplant Organisation" (NTO).

Landmark Texts

- Terms of References adopted on 16 February 2010 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.
- Oviedo Convention and its additional protocol on transplantation of organs and tissues of human origin.
- Joint Council of Europe / United Nations Study (2009) on "trafficking in organs, tissues and cells and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of the removal of organs" http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp

Major Events

- 2011: Celebration of the 13th European Organ Donation and Transplantation Day, organised and co-ordinated by experts in transplantation from the Council of Europe, the University Hospitals of Geneva, and the AGIR³ and Fairtransplant foundations on 22 October 2011, in Geneva (Switzerland).
- 2010: plenary meeting of CD-P-TO in Tbilisi (Georgia) and elaboration of the work programme of the Steering Committee for their first mandate (until end of 2012).
- Celebration of European Organ Donation and Transplantation Day, hosted and organised by the transplant association of Georgia on 23 October 2010, in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Satellite celebrations of EODD in Slovenia, Croatia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Austria in October 2010.
- Celebration of European Organ Donation and Transplantation Day, organised and co-ordinated by Deutsche Stiftung Organtransplantation on 4 October 2009, in Berlin (Germany).

Recent Publications

- "Guide to safety and quality assurance for the transplantation of organs", 4th Edition, 2010; scheduled for publication in French and Russian in 2011.
- Publication of the 2009 survey on international figures on organ donation and transplantation in the 2010 issue of "Transplant Newsletter".

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