



CONSELHO NACIONAL DE ÉTICA PARA AS CIÊNCIAS DA VIDA

Opinion

21/CNECV/97

on

The Ethical Implications of Cloning

The National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences received a formal request, subscribed by fifteen Representatives of the National Parliament (*Assembleia da República*), dated the 27th of February, 1997, asking this Council to issue an “Opinion on the Ethical Implications of Cloning, regarding particularly this type of cellular manipulation in human beings”.

Accordingly,

Considering that the competence of this Council is limited to the analysis of the ethical – not the juridical – problems raised by scientific progress in the fields of Biology, Medicine, or health care in general;

Considering that, in the present Opinion, *cloning* is given the strict meaning of the production, by means that do not involve sexual reproduction, of living beings genetically identical to the one whose genetic material was utilised;

Considering that the cloning of plants and non-human animals may offer benefits and that this Council does not have reservations in its regard, so long as the internationally accepted ethical norms on animal experimentation are observed and care is taken to preserve the biodiversity indispensable to life;

Considering that the dignity of the human person demands that every one be recognised, in his or her individuality, as an end *per se*, which precludes being used as an object or means or instrument by anyone for whatever purposes;

Considering that the Report-Opinion 3/CNECV/93 on Medically-Assisted Reproduction, issued on the 10th of February, 1993, by this Council excluded, as a form of “*instrumentalisation of the reproductive process (...) the creation of genetically identical human beings through cloning or other means*”;



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Considering that the deliberate production of genetically identical human beings, out of whatever personal, social, scientific, economic, political or eugenic motivations, would entail an intolerable instrumentalisation of such production;

The National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences issues the following Opinion:

1. No ethical objections are discerned as regards the cloning of plants and non-human animals, so long as the internationally accepted norms on animal experimentation are respected and care is taken to preserve the biodiversity indispensable to life.
2. The cloning of human beings, because of the problems it raises concerning the dignity of the human person, the equilibrium of the human species and life in society, is ethically unacceptable and must be prohibited.

Lisbon, April 1st, 1997

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of Ethics for the Life Sciences