

Organ donation

FROM VANGELIS PALLAS

On 31 May 2007 the Commission adopted a Communication on organ donation and transplantation. This Communication and the accompanying Impact Assessment contain a number of proposals for action at Community and Member State level designed to help increase the number of organ donors across the EU and ensure the quality and safety of the procedures involved.

The Communication proposed a dual mechanism for action: an action plan enhancing active coordination and cooperation between Member States complemented by a legal instrument containing the basic quality and safety principles.

In this context, the European Commission organised a journalist workshop in Brussels on 9 October 2012, attended by a number of journalists from the EU Member States.

The workshop focused on organ donation and transplantation, with a Commission presentation by chairman Andrzej Rys on the Commission's activities and initiatives in connection with organ donation and transplantation.

Yet again the deadly duo of ignorance and preconception has invaded Greek cyberspace. The reason for this is the draft law (3984) on the de facto declaration of consent of brain-dead donors. 'Brain death' is a very clearly defined concept.

Organ donation after the end of life is the highest form of altruism. Unfortunately the lack of grafts is the main factor limiting the growth of transplants in Greece.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cadaveric kidney	74	107	134	116	167	144	101	186	119	76
Kidney from a living donor	89	84	79	76	69	63	69	51	33	27
Cadaveric liver	18	21	24	29	34	27	32	58	33	25
Cadaveric heart	5	9	5	6	9	7	5	16	8	5
Cadaveric pancreas - kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-
Cadaveric liver - kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Cadaveric lungs	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	2
Total	186	221	242	227	280	242	209	317	199	135

From 2008 to 2010: reduction -60% and falling...

Two organ donors from Crete offer life to ten people

The National Transplantation Organisation should recognise the important contribution made by the hospitals in Crete to organ donation for transplantation.

In just four days (26 to 30 August) two organ donors, one from the General Hospital of Hania and one from the University Hospital of Iraklio, gave the gift of life to ten patients awaiting life-saving transplants.

The donation from the hospital in Hania took place on Friday 26 August following a diagnosis of death of a 48-year-old man and the consent of his relatives to donate his organs. The doctors and staff of the hospital's intensive care unit made untiring efforts to ensure that the necessary procedures were followed successfully, in cooperation with the National Transplantation Organisation. In the early hours of Saturday the liver was transplanted into a patient in the transplant clinic of the Hippocrates Hospital of Thessaloniki, and the two kidneys were transplanted into patients on waiting lists in the University Hospital of Patras and the Laiko Hospital of Athens.

The church is reactionary, as always. In the past it has distributed a special circular to the public and delivered sermons condemning transplantations.

The workshop ended with a speech by Mr John Dalli, the Commissioner responsible for health, and personal narratives by two donors.