

Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri



THE ITALIAN COMMITTEE FOR BIOETHICS



The Italian Committee for Bioethics was established by a decree signed by the President of the Council of Ministers on 28 March 1990 with the task of expressing opinions, also for the purpose of preparing legislative acts, to address the ethical and

legal problems that may emerge as a result of the progress in scientific research and technological applications on life, taking into account the safeguarding of fundamental human rights and the other values as expressed in the Constitutional Charter and in the international instruments supported by Italy.

«The Committee has to remain a high, impartial and scientific centre of bioethical culture, sensitive antenna, to the signals of society (national and international) but also an independent moment of multidisciplinary and organic reflection. Certainly not an exclusive area of reflection of the Country, but open to broader partnership with all those expertise and experiences which can positively contribute to the flourishing of the bioethical culture».



Adriano Bompiani
Founder and First President of ICB

OPINIONS AND RESPONSES

Year 2022

- Covid-19 Vaccines and migrants
- Institutional communication within pandemic: bioethical aspects
- Bioethical Reflections on Covid-19 vaccines in children aged 5-11 years

Year 2021

- Vulnerability and care in community welfare. The role of the ethical space for a public debate
- Determination of death according to cardiocirculatory criteria and "controlled donation": ethical and legal aspects
- Anti-Covid-19 vaccines and adolescents
- The role of Bioethics Experts in Ethics Committees
- Vaccine passport, Certificate and Green pass, within the Covid-19 pandemic: bioethical aspects

Year 2020

- Vaccines and Covid-19: ethical aspects on research, cost and distribution
- Biomedical experimentation in the search for new treatments in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic: ethical aspects
- Covid -19 and children: from birth to school age
- Covid-19: public health, individual freedom, social solidarity
- Covid 19: clinical decision-making in conditions of resource shortage and the "pandemic emergency triage" criterion

Year 2019

- Bioethical reflections on medically assisted suicide
- Mental health and psychiatric care in prisons

Year 2018

- Anonymity of organ donors and receivers (requested by the Italian National Transplant Centre)
- On the question of AIFA's request regarding the ethicality of the use of the drug triptorelin in the treatment of adolescents with gender dysphoria (GD)
- On the question of the use of organs from anti-HCV-positive and HCV-RNA positive donors for transplantation in anti-HCV negative patients (Response to a query submitted to the National Bioethics Committee by the National Transplant Centre of the National Institute of Health)

Year 2017

- **Caring for persons with mental illness: some bioethical issues**
- **Migration and Health**
- **Clinical Ethics Committees**
- **Ethical issues in gene-editing using Crispr/Cas9**
- **A call for safeguarding the National Health Services**

Year 2016

- **Information and Communication Technologies and Big Data: bioethical issues**
- **New possibilities for complete genomic analysis and "incidental findings"**
- **Deep and continuous palliative sedation in the imminence of death**

Year 2015

- **Mobile Health Apps: bioethical aspects**
- **The bioethical implications of medical restraints**
- **Single patient care and non-validated treatments (the so-called "compassionate use")**

Year 2014

- **Bioethical considerations for involuntary exchange of embryos**
- **Dementia and Alzheimer disease: ethical issues**
- **Pediatric Biobanks**
- **Lifestyles and protection of health**
- **Concerning bioethical issues raised by the Law August 6, 2013, N° 96 "Criteria in the view of a Governmental decree for the fulfillment of the directive 2010/63/UE of the European Parliament and of the Council of September 22, 2010"**

Year 2013

- **Health "within the walls"**
- **Conjoined twins and separation surgery: bioethical aspects**
- **Mental disability in developing age and autism**
- **Intensive care unit "open" to family visits**
- **Illegal trafficking of human organs from living donors**
- **Donation of the corpse for scientific research**
- **Neuroscience and pharmacological cognitive enhancement: bioethical aspects**
- **Human rights, medical ethics and enhancement technologies in the military**

Year 2012

- **Clinical trials in adult or minor patients who are unable to give informed consent in emergency situations**
- **Food animal production and animal welfare**
- **On the communication of the National Health System to patients on the costs of health services**
- **Conscientious objection and bioethics**
- **Bioethical aspects of aesthetic and reconstructive surgery**

Year 2011

- **Orphan drugs for persons affected by rare diseases**
- **Knowing one's biological origins in heterologous medically assisted procreation**
- **Pharmacological trials in developing countries**
- **Note on the pharmacist's conscientious objection to the sale of emergency contraceptive products**

Year 2010

- **Neuroscience and human experimentation: bioethical problems**
- **The identification of the human body: bioethical aspects of biometrics**
- **The improper use of placebo**
- **Bioethics and education in schools**
- **The living conditions of women in the third and fourth age: bioethical aspects of social healthcare**
- **Prison, suicide and autolesionism**
- **Criteria for the ascertainment of death**
- **Secrecy in procedures concerning the drug regulatory system**
- **Living unrelated kidney donation (the so called "samaritan donation")**
- **Ethics, sport and doping**

Year 2009

- **Alternative methods, ethics committees and conscientious objection to animal testing**
- **Chimeras and hybrids, with specific attention to cytoplasmic hybrids**
- **Bioethical problems in clinical trials with non-inferiority design**

Year 2008

- **Pharmacological trials on women**
- **Conscious refusal and renunciation of healthcare in the patient-doctor relationship**

- **Premature infants. Bioethical notes**

Year 2007

- **The destiny of embryos resulting from medically assisted procreation and not complying with the conditions for implantation**

Year 2006

- **Nanosciences and nanotechnologies**
- **Biobanks and research on human biological material**
- **Conflict of interest in biomedical research and clinical practice**
- **Caudectomy and conchectomy**
- **Ethics, health and new information technologies**
- **From pharmacogenetics to pharmacogenomics**
- **Bioethics and rehabilitation**
- **Differentiated alimentation and interculturalism**
- **Bioethics and the rights of the elderly**

Year 2005

- **Assistance to pregnant women and post-partum depression**
- **Adoption for the birth of criopreserved and residual embryos obtained by medically assisted procreation**
- **Bioethical problems concerning the use of animals in activities linked to human health and well-being**
- **Nourishment and hydration of patients in persistent vegetative state**
- **Bioethical remarks on the so-called "ootides"**
- **Bioethics in dentistry**
- **The cellular therapy of Huntington's disease through the implantation of foetal neurons**
- **Alternative medicine and the problem of informed consent**

Year 2004

- **Precautionary principle: bioethical, philosophical and legal aspects**
- **The use for research purpose of cell lines h1 and h9 deriving from human embryos**
- **Note on emergency contraception**

Year 2003

- **Advance treatment statements**
- **Ritual slaughtering and animal suffering**
- **Tobacco use**
- **Researches using human embryos and stem cells**

Year 2002

- **Opinion on the draft protocol on human genetics**

Year 2001

- **Aims, risks and limits of medicine**
- **Ethical and juridical considerations on the use of biotechnologies**
- **Bioethics and veterinary science. Animal well-being and human health**
- **Guidelines for ethical committees in Italy**
- **Violent acts, media and children**
- **Bioethical guidelines for equal access to healthcare**
- **Pain therapy: bioethical guidelines**

Year 2000

- **Psychiatry and mental health: bioethical guidelines**
- **Therapeutic use of stem cells**
- **Protection of human embryo and foetus. Opinion on the preliminary draft protocol of the Bioethics Committee of the Council of Europe**
- **Statement on the patentability of human embryonic cells**

Year 1999

- **The European protocol on biomedical research**
- **Bioethical guidelines for genetic testing**
- **Proposal for a moratorium on human xenotransplantation clinical trials**
- **Statement on the children's right to a non-polluted environment**
- **Treatment of psychiatric patients: bioethical problems - Opinion on the Council of Europe White Paper on the treatment of mentally-ill patients**

Year 1998

- **The bioethical issue of non voluntary sterilization**
- **Circumcision: bioethics outline**
- **Youth suicide as a bioethical problem**
- **Ethics, healthcare system and resources**
- **Pregnancy and childbirth from the bioethical standpoint**
- **Bioethical issues in a multiethnic society**

Year 1997

- **The bioethical problem of the kidney transplant from a non-blood related living donor**
- **Cloning**
- **Childhood and the environment**
- **Animal testing and health of living beings**
- **Ethics Committees in Italy: recent issues**

- Opinions on the “Convention for the protection of human rights and biomedicine”, Council of Europe and on the “Preliminary draft of the universal declaration on the human genome and human rights”, UNESCO

Year 1996

- Identity and status of the human embryo
- The anencephalic infant and organ donation

Year 1995

- Coming to life
- Ethical aspects of electroconvulsive therapy
- Vaccination
- Bioethics and the environment
- End-of-life issues in bioethics
- Medically assisted fertilization – Documents

Year 1994

- Medically assisted procreation techniques. Synthesis and conclusions
- Human genome project
- Bioethics with childhood
- Organ transplants in childhood

Year 1993

- Report on the patentability of living organisms

Year 1992

- Drug experimentation
- Prenatal diagnosis
- Information and consent related to medical acts
- Ethics committees

Year 1991

- Organ donation for transplantation purposes
- Bioethics and education in the healthcare system
- Document on the safety of biotechnology
- Issues related to the collection and treatment of human seminal plasma for diagnostic purposes
- Opinion on the resolution proposal concerning assistance to terminally ill patients
- Gene therapy
- Definition and detection of human death

MOTIONS

Year 2021

- Vaccines and placebo
- Vaccination urgency: bioethical aspects
- Loneliness among sick people in healthcare facilities in times of pandemic

Year 2020

- Bioethical reflections on precision medicine and diagnostic-therapeutic developments
- Animal testing with reference to the prohibition set by the Legislative Decree 26/2014 regarding xenotransplants and abuse substances
- Medical futility or unreasonable prolongation of treatments in young children with low expectations of life

Year 2019

- Motion against tobacco addiction

Year 2017

- Motion on non-optimal pharmaceutical packaging
- Statement on labelling homeopathic products and information transparency
- Motion for a policy of equal access to highly effective innovative drugs for serious diseases: reducing prices and controlling costs incurred by the National Health Service and citizens

Year 2016

- Paid surrogacy

Year 2015

- On the implementation of Regulation (E.U.) no. 536/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, on the subject of clinical trials on medicinal products for human use, repealing Directive 2001/20/EC
- Inequalities at birth
- The importance of immunisation

Year 2014

- Declaration on clinical trials and the conferral to the European Commissioner for health and consumer policy of competences on the

European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Year 2012

- Declaration on the document “Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Clinical Trials on Medicinal Products for Human Use, and Repealing Directive 2001/20/EC”
- Motion to complete the ratification procedure of the Oviedo Convention

Year 2009

- Motion on the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes

Year 2008

- Motion on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities

Year 2007

- Motion on the collection, storage and use of stem cells deriving from umbilical cord
- Motion on the trade of oocytes

Year 2005

- Motion on assistance to newborns and children affected by serious pathologies or handicaps and on paediatric euthanasia

Year 2004

- Motion on the trade of organs for the transplant
- Motion on unconventional medicines and practices

Year 2003

- Statement on the penitentiary issue
- Motion on the human cloning for reproductive purposes
- Motion on the compulsory treatment of paedophiles convicted of sex crimes

THE JOINT GROUP

Composed by members of the ICB
and the
National Committee for Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences(ICBBSL)



THE OPINION OF THE JOINT GROUP

Year 2020

- Bioethical reflections on precision medicine and diagnostic-therapeutic developments
- Artificial Intelligence and Medicine: some ethical aspects

Year 2017

- Developments of robotics and roboethics

Year 2010

- Long-Term storage of residual dot blot spots from neonatal screening
- Genetic susceptibility testing and personalized medicine

Year 2009

- Collection of biological samples for research purposes: informed consent

Year 2008

- Genetic testing and insurance

NATIONAL BIOETHICS CONFERENCES FOR SCHOOLSjects.

1. *Bioethics and human rights* - Capua (CE) 2001 **2.** *Health metamorphosis* - Genoa 2002 **3.** *Challenges of the genetic engineering* - Messina 2003 **4.** *European Convention on human rights and biomedicine* - Genoa 2004 **5.** *Human body among biology, biography and market* - Pontedera 2006 **6.** *Living on the Earth. Life's responsibility between nature and culture* - Volterra 2007 **7.** *The Health Asset. 30 years after the institution of the National Health Service* - Messina 2009 **8.** *Possibilities and limits of genetic study* - Pontedera 2010 **9.** *Good to eat. Nutrition and food safety* - Salerno 2012 **10.** *Bioethics and sport* - Rome 2013 **11.** *Bioethics and neuroscience* – Florence 2014 **12.** *The ethics of care: bioethical paradigms* – Imperia 2015 **13.** *Developments of robotics and roboethics* – Genoa 2017 **14.** *Bioethics and scientific research* – Ariano Irpino 2019 **15.** *Covid-19: a challenge for bioethics* - 2021 online edition – **16.** *The Ethical Space: Aims, Functions and possible Scopes of Application* – 2022 on line edition



CONFERENCES FOR UNIVERSITIES AND CITIZENSHIP

University of Trento – 23/24 October 2014

A meeting on bioethics was held with the local population, regarding beginning and end-of-life issues



THE ICB MEETS POPE FRANCIS

On January 28th, 2016, members of the National Bioethics Committee, chaired by Prof. Lorenzo d'Avack, were received in audience by Pope Francis at the Hall of the Consistory in the Vatican City.



PRIME MINISTER GIUSEPPE CONTE meets the member of the ICB

On September 26th, 2019, members of the Italian Bioethics Committee, were received by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Emerging Technologies and Big Data” -- Rome 2016

The International Conference “Emerging Technologies and Big Data”, organized by the Italian Committee for Bioethics, took place on October 28th 2016 in Rome, with the participation of Jean Claude Ameisen, President of the French Consultative Committee for Life Sciences and Health, Peter Dabrock, President

of the German Ethics Council and Jonathan Montgomery, President of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (UK).



“Role and Functions of Bioethics Committees” - Rome 2012

The conference was held with the participation of: the President of the EGE; the President of the International Bioethics Committee of Unesco; the President of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (UK); Member of the Comité Consultatif National d’Etique pour le sciences de la vie et de la santé; the Vice-Chair of the Deutscher Ethikrat.

20th NEC FORUM and EGE Meeting



Rome, 18-20 November 2014. The Italian National Bioethics Committee organized two key international meetings, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, in conjunction with the EU Commission: the 20th Forum of National Ethics Councils (NEC Forum) gathering high-level representatives of European Ethics Councils of the 28 EU Member States, as well as the meeting of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE).

Presidency of the Council of Ministers



The President of the Council of Ministers



The Parliament



The Ministers



Citizens



Authorities and Institutions

International relations of the ICB



**Council of Europe
DH-BIO**



**International Bioethics
Committee of UNESCO, Paris**



**The ICB regularly participates in meetings with
International Organisations and Institutions**

**European Forum of
National Ethics
Councils**

**Global Summit
WHO**



**EGE – European Group on Ethics
European Commission**

Work of the ICB



The Presidents of the ICB since 1990



Adriano Bompiani
1990-1992
Medical doctor, professor



Adriano Ossicini
1992-1994
Medical doctor, professor



Francesco D'Agostino
1995-1998
2002-2006
Jurist, professor



Giovanni Berlinguer
1999-2001
Medical doctor, professor



Francesco Paolo Casavola
2006-2015
President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court of Italy



Lorenzo d'Avack
2015-2017
2018-2022
Jurist, professor
Deputy President
President

THE LAST COMPOSITION (2018-2022)

President

Lorenzo d'Avack

Vice Presidents

Riccardo Di Segni, Mariapia Garavaglia, Laura Palazzani (deputy)

Members

Salvatore Amato, Luisella Battaglia, Carlo Caltagirone,
Stefano Canestrari, Cinzia Caporale, Carlo Casonato,
Francesco D'Agostino, Bruno Dallapiccola, Antonio Da Re,
Mario De Curtis, Gian Paolo Donzelli, Silvio Garattini,
Marianna Gensabella, Maurizio Mori, Assunta Morresi,
Tamar Pitch, Lucio Romano, Massimo Sargiacomo, Luca Savarino,
Lucetta Scaraffia, Monica Toraldo di Francia, Grazia Zuffa

Ex Officio members

President of the National Federation of MDs and Dentists Colleges,
delegate Maurizio Benato - President of the National Research Council,
delegate Giovanni Maga - President of the National Federation of the Italian Veterinary Colleges,
delegate Carla Bernasconi - President of the Superior Health Council, *delegate* Paola Di Giulio -
President of the National Institute of Health, *delegate* Carlo Petrini

Coordinator of the Secretariat

Agnese Camilli

Secretariat

Lorella Autizi, Monica Bramucci, Raffaella Maria Falco,
Angelo Rocchi, Carlo Santoro

Comitato Nazionale per la Bioetica

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