

Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)

Research on biological materials and biobanks

The DH-BIO is currently re-examining Recommendation (2006) 4 on research on biological materials of human origin. In this context, it had already requested the opinion of the Consultative Committee on specific questions and the comments of the T-PD (doc. [T-PD\(2013\)10rev](#)) were taken into account in preparing a draft revised Recommendation. In March 2014, this draft revised Recommendation was made public as a working document, for consultation.

At its 5th plenary meeting (5-7 May 2014), the DH-BIO agreed to invite the T-PD to make comments on the whole working document (doc. DH-BIO/INF(2014)3) by 20 September 2014, and a request was sent to the Chair of the T-PD to this effect.

Draft recommendation on the use for insurance purposes of personal health-related information, in particular of a genetic and predictive nature

At the same meeting, the DH-BIO held a preliminary exchange of views on the draft Recommendation on the use for insurance purposes of personal health-related information, in particular information of a genetic and predictive nature. It was agreed to organise a consultation meeting with interested delegations with the aim of preparing a revised version for examination by the Committee at its next plenary meeting. Moreover, the decision was taken to designate a rapporteur, within the DH-BIO, who would be entrusted with the task of preparing, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a revised version in the light of the comments from delegations and taking account of the opinion submitted by the T-PD, which would be examined at the consultation meeting.

Emerging technologies

The DH-BIO is currently carrying out work on the issue of emerging technologies and their convergence. A first study on scientific developments in this field, prepared by the Rathenau Instituut (Netherlands), was published in April 2014.

[http://www.rathenau.nl/uploads/tx_tferathenau/From Bio to NBIC convergence - Rathenau 01.pdf](http://www.rathenau.nl/uploads/tx_tferathenau/From_Bio_to_NBIC_convergence_-_Rathenau_01.pdf)

A second study to be carried out by the Centre for the study of sciences and humanities of the University of Bergen (Norway) will focus on ethical issues raised by emerging technologies. An extended Bureau meeting will be held in Paris on 1 October 2014, to which interested delegations and experts already proposed for the drafting of this study will be invited for the purpose of examining a preliminary draft study. In view of the issues relating to data protection in this field, the T-PD might wish to designate an expert to participate in this extended Bureau meeting.

Joint Bureau meeting

The joint meeting of the Bureaux of the DH-BIO and T-PD foreseen on 30 September 2014 will provide the opportunity to discuss how to strengthen cooperation between the two committees on issues of common interest, in particular with a view to the re-examination of Recommendation (97) 5 on the protection of medical data.