Ethics Of Science And New Technologies: The European Commission Activities.

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The European Commission has three important types of activities in the field of bioethics:
a) Respect for and promotion of fundamental rights, by ensuring that they are taken fully into account in the preparation and implementation of Community legislation or policies, including emerging legislation (e.g. directives on biotechnological inventions, GMOs, human tissues and cells and tissue engineering) and research framework programmes. In particular the Commission is also ensuring through the ethical review that EU-funded research proposals that do involve issues of major significance on bioethics (e.g. use of human biological material, involvement of vulnerable people in research activities –children, aged peoples etc., use of non-human primates etc.) are ethically sound.
b) Funding of trans-national research which might have ethical implications and support of research on ethical, legal and social issues raised by developments in science and technology, through the Community Research Framework Programme.
c) Active participation in a number of international for a dealing with bioethical issues, either as an international interlocutor on behalf of the European Community (e.g. FAO), or as an observer, in the drafting of additional protocols to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine by the Council of Europe, or UNESCO Declarations (e.g. *universal declaration on human rights and bioethics*) or other relevant parties (e.g. OECD guidelines on quality assurance and genetic testing, etc.).

In parallel, the Commission is equipped with a consultative body, the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE), an independent and pluralist advisory group on the ethical aspects of science and new technologies. The Group has an Institutional remit (see EC 94/48) and it has developed into a useful and reliable tool for the Commission regarding ethical questions. The Group is currently working on an opinion on ethics and nanomedicine to be hopefully finalised in 2006.

In this intervention I will explain what is the main logics of the EC activities in the fields of bioethics, and I will also focus on some practical examples where the embedding and deepening of ethics plays a major role: nanomedicine or other front line new technologies.

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He has done research on ethics, law and governance of science and technology, inter alia, at the University of Rome, the Flemish Institute of Biotechnology, the University of Maastricht, the International Forum of Bio-philosophy. He has published extensively on bioethics, ethics and biotechnology and philosophy of biology in Europe, USA, Japan, South America and New Zealand and was a member of the Drafting Working Group of several EC policy papers. He has participated at the work on bioethics done by other International Organisations (e.g. the Council of Europe, Unesco, OECD, WHO etc.). Since 2006 Dr Salvi is a Policy Advisor to the President of the EC (Ethics -BEPA), leads the EGE Secretariat, coordinates EC actions on ethics and EU Policies and represents the EC with relevant third parties dealing with bioethics and ethics of science.