



*Alliance for MRI Update*

**6th December 2012**

***Employment Committee supports derogation for MRI despite Socialist Group attempt to introduce last minute provisions; Future threat of abstention by the Socialist Group in Plenary Vote***

### **European Parliament – Employment Committee Vote**

After almost 10 years of uncertainty, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) today took the first step towards ensuring continued patient access to MRI by endorsing the MRI derogation in its adoption of a draft report on the revised Directive 2004/40/EC on electromagnetic fields.

However this was not without potential opposition from the Socialist Group. Following a meeting held the day before the vote, the Socialist Group sought to insert an article introducing a general principle that workers should not be exposed to EMF above the exposure limits. However this amendment was not accepted by the Rapporteur given the extended discussions on the text to date.

There now remains an outstanding threat to the Parliament's adoption of the text, as the Socialist Shadow Rapporteur, Ms Rapti has announced that the Socialist Group will abstain in the plenary should this proposed amendment not be accepted.

The Alliance for MRI welcomes today's vote, which demonstrates that a majority of Members of the Employment Committee have recognised the importance of MRI for patients in Europe and are willing to take the necessary legislative steps to ensure that this technology will remain available to patients today and in the future.

However the Alliance for MRI calls upon members of the Socialist Group to support the agreed text to and avoid introducing any legal uncertainty which will prevent the unimpeded use of MRI.

The EMPL Committee adopted its draft report on the Directive on electromagnetic fields including the derogation for MRI with 39 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. All relevant amendments (amendment 246 and compromise amendment 5) were adopted.

#### Next steps:

The preliminary date for the plenary vote, initially set for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013, has been postponed and is now likely to take place either in March or April 2013.

Following today's Committee vote, informal discussions will start between the European Parliament, Council and the European Commission.

The aim of all institutions remains to agree on a final text in order to reach a First Reading Agreement in 2013.

### **Member support required**

Given the potential threat to the hard work undertaken by the Alliance for MRI, we would ask that all members contact MEPs, notably members of the Socialist Group in order to communicate the urgency in adopting the revised Directive.

The Alliance for MRI appreciates any help you can give on this final homestretch before an agreement is reached in early 2013.

### **We need your support to raise awareness of the importance of the MRI Derogation for patients in Europe:**

Contact your **MEPs ahead of the plenary vote slated for March/April 2013**

Contact your **Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs/ Health and Safety**

The **Alliance for MRI can provide expert witnesses, template letters and information on MRI use in specific disease areas.**

### **Alliance for MRI Activities**

#### **Exhibition in Parliament**

An exhibition on the Alliance for MRI and the importance of MRI technology for patients is planned for February 2013 prior to the plenary vote.

We will inform you of the agreed date shortly and very much hope that we will see you there.

Please contact the Alliance for MRI Secretariat who can provide any assistance you require.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Best regards,

Javeni Hemetsberger

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