

Dear Sir,

The Internet adress where you may find the text of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine is :

<http://www.coe.fr/tablconv/164.htm>

The relevant with the subject of your research opinions of the greek committee of experts in the General Secretariat of Research and Technology are the following ones (in unofficial translation) :

*Gene Therapy* : At the present stage, gene therapy (ex vivo and in vivo) should be restricted to serious diseases for which there is no other effective available treatment, and may be used for supporting other conventional treatments. Gene therapy should be applied only in somatic cells.

*Prenatal Diagnosis* : The basic ethical principles of prenatal diagnosis, are variable, dependent from a number of different conditions, as the kind, the frequency, and the seriousness of each genetic disease, the social, educational and economic structure, the structure of the health system and the religious convictions of the population. In our country prenatal diagnosis is widely applied in cases of chromosomic anomalies and other genetic diseases.

*Genetic Intervention on Human Embryos* : From the ethical point of view, any intervention on human embryos intended to decline from Nature patterns is unacceptable, considering that even germ line gene therapy on humans is also unpermissible. Nevertheless, experimentation on other species' embryos (frogs etc), in order to enrich our knowledge in this matter, should not be discouraged.

Takis Vidalis