

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (81) 14

ON PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF BLOOD, ITS COMPONENTS AND DERIVATIVES

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 11 September 1981
at the 336th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members and that this aim may be pursued, *inter alia*, by the adoption of common regulations in the public health field ;

Recalling its Resolution (78) 29 on harmonisation of legislations of member states relating to the removal, grafting and transplantation of human substances, which was adopted with a view to ensuring better protection of donors, prospective donors and recipients of human substances and enhancing the progress of medical science and therapeutics ;

Considering that recent studies carried out in all member states¹ have shown that the transmission of infections through the international transfer of blood, its components and derivatives represents a constant health hazard for recipients and that it is necessary when deciding on transfusion to take account of the epidemiological situation in the country of origin of these substances,

Recommends to the governments of member states that national regulations be established concerning the importation of blood, its components and derivatives with a view to limiting as fully as possible potential health hazards due to the transmission of infectious agents ; such regulations should, in particular, provide for the furnishing of data on the donation and the preparation of such substances, that is (in addition to the results of any specific tests which may be considered necessary by the importing state) the name of the country in which the blood was given, the date of the donation or preparation and data concerning the identity of the donor on condition that his anonymity is preserved outside the blood bank at which the donation was made ; this information should be available at any time to national health administrations.

1. See the report of the 1980 Co-ordinated Research Programme on Blood Transfusion on the assessment of the risks of transmitting infectious diseases by the international transfer of blood, its components and derivatives.