



Transfusion Today

Quarterly newsletter of the international society of blood transfusion



Overwhelming Blood Donors to Tsunami in Thailand, page 16

March 2005

62

EUROPE

AND THE

BULLETIN TRIMESTRIEL D'INFORMATION
DE LA SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE
DE TRANSFUSION SANGUINE



• Regulatory oversight in BT, page 8



• WPADP, automated systems and I.T. trends, page 14

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Editorial

Demystifying the EU

More than 40 years have elapsed between the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC Treaty) and signed by 6 countries, and the recent agreement on the European Constitution by the Heads of State of the 25 Member States. The EU constitution is a sort of compromise between the demands of those who want more integration and those who want to preserve the rights of the nation states.

On *Europe Direct* (europa.eu.int/euro-pedirect/), a free service for Euro citizens, the hotline top theme is mobility and the right to move freely between countries. Supporters of a federal Europe might forge ahead in new areas like tax harmonisation or social security, as they have done with the single currency. Europe is building up towards practical issues, enabling us to move more easily, even if technocracy still appears cumbersome.

In this global context, the weight of our long discussions and meetings about the Blood Directive may appear very light. These legislative instruments which oblige member states to introduce them into their existing laws have the advantage of harmonising existing practices. The blood directive transition period is now over. That's a further step forward and there are surely many more to come.

Of course, some things will never change: those who wanted to go further and those who wanted to hold back in 1958, are most probably still present today.

Claudine Hossenlopp
Editor

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Design & Layout : A trois communication
Photos : © Transfusion Today
Sketches : Antoine de Chaumont

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