

news release

For Immediate Release: 25/04/07

EGAN delighted as MEPs deliver therapies.

The European Genetic Alliance Network (EGAN) and its members across Europe are delighted with the outcome of today's plenary vote on Advanced Medicinal Therapies (COD/2005/0227).

We wish to whole-heartedly thank all MEPs that put patient's needs for therapies first in their consideration of these sensitive issues.

The Parliament accepted a technical compromise package which is likely to be acceptable to the European Council of Ministers and the European Commission. This, plus the rejection of a myriad of controversial ethical amendments, drastically increases the chance of an early adoption of this regulation.

Once the regulation is in place, a single regulatory framework will span the European Union; this will encourage investment in research towards the production of therapies that fit into the framework, including gene therapies, tissue therapies and therapies derived from stem cells.

EGAN represents patients across Europe with severe, often life-limiting genetic conditions. Many of the conditions that we represent have neither treatment nor cure. The decision today brings hope to millions of European patients in this situation.

Alastair Kent, President of EGAN, said, "This result is truly a relief to EGAN and all of its member groups. We hope that the MEPs who voted for the compromise package and against the ethical amendments will enjoy seeing life enhancing treatments delivered to patients over many years to come. We're delighted."

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Notes to Editors

- EGAN is the European Genetic Alliances' Network, an alliance of national genetic alliances and European disease specific patient groups with a special interest in genetics, genomics and biotechnology. EGAN works for a voice in research and health policy and seeks a world in which genetic diseases are understood, effectively treated, prevented and the people affected supported.