



# Press Release

## 02/2002

Berlin, October 2, 2002

### German Ethics Council meetings open to the public starting 2003

During its regular monthly meeting on September 26, 2002, the National Ethics Council voted to open its meetings to the public starting 2003.

The public is however already invited to attend a *hearing of experts on issues associated with genetic diagnosis before and during pregnancy* to be held on October 8, 2002.

This first public plenary meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2003.

Parallel to these meetings, the National Ethics Council will also hold events in the future which specifically provide for the public's direct participation in the discussions. The next event of this type will be the National Ethics Council's annual conference on the subject of Biobanks – A chance for progress in research or a sell-out of human resources? to be held on October 24, 2002.

#### The German National Ethics Council

The German National Ethics Council's task is to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discourse between the natural sciences, medicine, theology and philosophy, and the social and legal sciences.

It expresses views on ethical issues relating to new developments in the field of the life sciences and on their consequences for the individual and society.

#### Members

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Prof. Dr. Regine Kollek (Deputy Chair)  
Prof. Dr. Dr. Eckhard Nagel (Deputy Chair)  
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Prof. Dr. Horst Dreier  
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Bishop Dr. Gebhard Fürst  
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Prof. Dr. Volker Gerhardt  
Bishop Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Huber  
Christiane Lohkamp  
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Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Richard Schröder  
Dr. h.c. Lothar Späth  
Prof. Dr. Jochen Taupitz  
Dr. Hans-Jochen Vogel (former Federal Minister)  
Kristiane Weber-Hassemer  
Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker  
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