

**Question for written answer E-002290/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: DNA handed over to US companies: bioethics and anti-democratic screening

According to reports by investigative group Reporters United¹, on 17 May 2024, the Greek Minister of Health – without prior consultation with scientific bodies – signed a programme contract for the so-called ‘First Steps’ project with US biotechnology companies Real Genix and Beginnings². From 1 January 2025 to 1 March 2029, this ‘project’ will see maternity hospitals handing over blood samples of 100 000 newborns to these companies for DNA analysis, with them even being granted exclusive ownership of the research results.

Collaborating in such a large-scale neonatal genetic screening exercise – and putting the babies’ data on file for life – raises serious moral and ethical problems and puts their most sensitive personal data at risk. Moreover, the Greek Child Health Institute has stated that there is currently no valid informed consent from parents for the performance of mass diagnostic testing of this kind, while there have also been reactions from many scientists³⁴.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. In its opinion, is it lawful and ethical for the Ministry to send neonatal genetic material for comprehensive genetic screening without parents being informed or granting their consent?
2. Is it aware of generalised genetic screening programmes being implemented by any other Member States?
3. Does it know how many samples have been sent to the US since 1 January 2025?

Submitted: 6.6.2025

¹ <https://www.reportersunited.gr/16145/adonis-georgiadis-dna/>

² <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25893844-programmatike-sumbase-up-ugeias-me-realgenix-beginnings/>

³ <https://ygeianet.gr/epistoli-195-epistimonon-gia-ti-diathesi-dna-neognon-se-xenes-etaireies-2/>

⁴ <https://www.tovima.gr/2025/05/21/health/o-adonis-to-gonidioma-kai-ta-prosopika-dedomena/>