



A derogation for medical resonance imaging (MRI) is approved by the European Parliament and the European Council on the revised EU Physical Agents Directive 2004/40/EC

The 6 year debate undertaken by FEAM and the European medical community to ensure continued patient access to MRI and the ongoing use of this diagnostic tool by European biomedical researchers for the benefit of patients is coming to a positive legislative end!

[FEAM](#) welcomes the positive vote of the European Parliament and of the European Council on maintaining an exemption for MRI from the binding exposure limits set in the original Directive as proposed by the European Commission in its 2011 revision.

In 2006, FEAM highlighted the catastrophic impact that the Directive would have on clinical MRI and research in spite of the proven benefits to patients, the adequate existing safety regulations and the lack of scientific evidence supporting the need for lower exposure limits. In 2011, it welcomed the EC revised Directive that included an exemption for MRI and joined the [Alliance for MRI](#) in pursuing its effort to save MRI in Europe for the benefit of patients and the advancement of research. Today, FEAM welcomes the decision of the European Parliament and Council to maintain a derogation for MRI in the revised Directive and calls for a prompt adoption by EU Member States (adoption deadline: 1 July 2016).

‘This vote is a momentous occasion in ensuring the continuing provision of optimal diagnosis and care, using MRI for patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. This vital step taken by European decision-makers helps to maintain a nurturing environment for exciting new research.’ says Professor Jesus A. F. Tresguerres, President of FEAM.

‘Although this Directive was originally intended to set minimum requirements to protect workers from exposure to EMF, the unintended consequences to MRI were extremely worrying in terms of patient diagnosis and care and for the advancement of exciting, promising new research in cancer, neuroscience and animal research. Scientific evidence indicated that existing safety regulations already ensured optimal conditions for patients and adequate protection for researchers and MRI operators. In 2006, FEAM urged the European Commission to look at the scientific evidence and to propose a derogation for MRI on this basis. In 2011, we were very pleased to hear that the European Commission had responded so positively to the concern of the European medical community. I am

now relieved that the European Parliament and Council have followed suit.’ says Sir Peter Lachmann, FEAM Past President and Founder President of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

Thanks to FEAM Academies and the Alliance for MRI, a positive legislative outcome was obtained for the benefit of patients and the advancement of research in Europe.

Brussels, July 2013

Since 1993, FEAM’s mission is to promote cooperation between national Academies of Medicine and Medical Sections of Academies of Sciences in Europe, to provide them with a platform to formulate their collective voice on matters concerning medicine, biomedical research and public health with a European dimension, and to extend to the European authorities the advisory role that they exercise in their own countries on those matters.

Our vision:

- To underpin European biomedical policy with the best scientific advice drawn from across Europe, through the FEAM network of Academies representing over 3000 high level scientists from the whole biomedical spectrum.
- To improve the health, safety and wealth of European citizens through research by promoting a nurturing, creative and sustainable environment for medical research and training in Europe.

FEAM’s strength lies in its member Academies that give it the authority to provide an EU-wide scientific opinion on the European medical science base and evidence to underpin European biomedical policy. The FEAM Academies represent the following EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom. Observers include the European Academies Science Advisory Council ([EASAC](#) – the European network of Academies of Sciences) and the InterAcademy Medical Panel ([IAMP](#) – the global network of Academies of Medicine).

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