



April 2022

## Open letter to Swisstransplant

The European Donation and Transplant Coordination Organisation is a section of the European Society for Organ Transplantation: <https://esot.org/edtco/>.

Our organisation is the largest European platform that serves and supports all professionals working in the field of organ donation. As transplant coordinators, we are involved in organ donation on a daily basis, as we organise the entire cycle donation process after consent for donation.

**As such, we would like to express our full support for the modification of the Swiss transplant law to reform the national organ consent system (votation May 15, 2022), moving from explicit to presumed consent.**

Indeed, several European countries applied the presumed consent (Opt-Out) system imposed by improved legislation in recent years. For example, England (May 2020) and The Netherlands (July 2020) changed their legal consent system to Opt-Out. Both major legal consent systems (Opt In and Opt Out) provide and ensure the free opportunity for all individuals to express their willingness to donate organs or object against organ donation.

From an ethical point of view, it is a crucial prerequisite to inform the general public about the various implications of such laws, especially in the case of the Opt-Out system. Due to the long history of the explicit consent system in Switzerland, public information has been provided for many years, therefore the level of public awareness may be helpful prior to the change of legislation.

We acknowledge that the amendment of the law will take place within the framework of a nationwide vote, with the result of clear social support. This approach guarantees the full transparency and the highest level of participation in community decisions that we can only support. **Each life-saving organ transplant begins with a personal decision on organ donation!**

Best regards,

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