

## European Union

### “International Stem Cell”

**Decision of the European Court of Justice (Grand Chamber)  
18 December 2014 – Case No. C-364/13**

*International Stem Cell Corporation v. Comptroller  
General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks*

**Directive 98/44/EC, Art. 6(2)(c)**

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**Keywords** Biotechnological inventions · Human embryonic stem cells ·  
Patentability

Article 6(2)(c) of Directive 98/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 1998 on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions must be interpreted as meaning that an unfertilised human ovum whose division and further development have been stimulated by parthenogenesis does not constitute a ‘human embryo’, within the meaning of that provision, if, in the light of current scientific knowledge, it does not, in itself, have the inherent capacity of developing into a human being, this being a matter for the national court to determine.

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Official headnotes.

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