

# Three-parent babies 'in breach of EU regulations'

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BRITAIN HAS breached EU law and "violated human dignity" by allowing the creation of three-parent babies, MEPs have claimed.

The European Commission has been asked to step in to prevent mitochondrial DNA transfer which will allow the genetic material of a "second mother" to be used to repair faults.

Earlier this month, Britain became the first country to allow the procedure which will prevent a number of genetic conditions including muscular dystrophy.

The first babies could be born next year.

But 50 MEPs have written to David Cameron urging the Prime Minister to withdraw legislation and warning him that the new laws breach the EU's clinical trials directive, which bans genetic alterations that can be passed down to future generations.

Slovakian MEP Miroslav Mikolášik has also tabled a written question in the European Parliament asking the European Commission to "take steps" over Britain's "lack of compliance" with EU law.

In an open letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Mikolášik and 49 other MEPs said: "We are writing to you to express our profound concern at the intention of the UK to permit the modification of the human genome.

"Your proposals violate the fundamental standards of human dignity and integrity of the person."

Under the new rules, IVF clinics will be able to replace an egg's defective mitochondrial DNA with healthy DNA from a female donor's egg.

The technique is controversial because it would result in babies having DNA from three people.

The Department of Health said it had taken legal advice and did not believe the new legislation was in breach of European law.