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European Parliament Affirms Role of Magnetic Resonance Imaging

The prospect of limiting magnetic resonance imaging in healthcare due to European legislation protecting workers from radiation has been averted after a decision by the European Parliament in June. MRI in healthcare has been exempted from the regulations, which limit exposure to electromagnetic radiation and oblige employers to assess and reduce risk. Healthcare organisations are obliged to take measures to prevent adverse health effects and safety risks.

“This text strikes a balance between the health and safety of workers and the possibility of using electromagnetic fields when needed, for example for medical purposes,” said Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, the rapporteur, during the debate before the vote.

The Alliance for MRI welcomed the move. In its statement the Alliance said, “This derogation is necessary to ensure the unimpeded use of MRI so that patients have access to the highest standard of care across Europe.” The Alliance further pointed out that the technology is highly regulated with criteria set to eliminate any danger to workers and patients. The Alliance said that it supports the adoption of guidelines to ensure that working practices are in line with the latest technological developments.

The legislation is due to receive final approval by the end of June.

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