On the fate of severely premature babies, and the surveillance epidemic in the UK.

Resuscitation of premature babies debated in the UK  By Julie LE COZ

In November, Britain’s Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has called for legal euthanasia for extremely sick premature babies. This proposal is a reaction to the number of severely handicapped children surviving due to medical advances. In a recent report, medical experts have set new guidelines for doctors and parents on treating premature babies. The report insists that a baby born after only 22 weeks in the womb should not routinely be resuscitated. The Church of the England has broken with traditional dogma and also supports baby euthanasia. Nevertheless, Church leaders hope that the lethal act would _ be performed only with manifest reluctance: as, for instance, in cases of seriously disabled newborns. However, the United Kingdom Disabled People Council, which is composed of about 140 different organisations, is strongly against this proposal. It claims this is the first step towards Nazi-style “social engineering” and compares it with “genocide”.


Big brother is getting bigger in the UK  By Sébastien GERBAULT

Britons are the most watched people in the Western hemisphere. The UK shelters 4.2 million cameras of surveillance, i.e. an average of one camera for every 14 people. CCTVs (Closed Circuit Televisions) are omnipresent: in streets, on highways, in trains, buses, subways, shopping centres and stadiums. A Londoner can be filmed up to three hundred times a day. The number of CCTVs soared after the London terrorist attacks of July 2005. Associations for the protection of privacy denounce this security policy; so far, to no avail.