

## Tekst 4

### Organ transplants

## Psst, wanna buy a kidney?

IF THEY were just another product, the market would work its usual magic: supply would respond to high prices and rise to meet surging demand. But human kidneys are no ordinary commodity. Trading them is banned in most countries. So supply depends largely on the charity of individuals: some are willing to donate one of their healthy kidneys while they are still alive (at very little risk to their health); others agree to let their kidneys be used when they die. 17, not enough people offer.



Kidneys are the subject of a quietly growing global drama. As people in the rich world live longer and grow fatter, queues for kidneys are lengthening fast: at a rate of 7% a year in America, for example, where last year 4,039 people died waiting. Doctors are allowing older and more sluggish kidneys to be transplanted. Ailing, rich patients are buying kidneys from the poor and desperate in burgeoning black markets. One bigwig broker may soon stand trial in South Africa. Clandestine kidney-sellers get little medical follow-up, buyers often catch hepatitis or HIV, and both 18 slap-dash surgery.

In the face of all this, most countries are sticking with the worst of all policy options. Governments place the burden on their citizens to volunteer organs. A few European countries, including Spain, manage to push up supply a bit by presuming citizens' consent to having their organs transplanted when they die unless they specify otherwise. Whether or not such presumed consent is morally right, it does not solve the supply problem in Spain or elsewhere. 19, if just 0.06% of healthy Americans aged between 19 and 65 parted with one kidney, the country would have no waiting list. The way to encourage this is to 20 the sale of kidneys. That's what Iran has done. An officially approved patients' organisation oversees the transactions. Donors get \$2,000 — 4,000. The waiting list has been eliminated.

Many people will find the very idea of individuals selling their organs repugnant. Yet a market in the organs of deceased people already exists. Companies make millions out of it. It seems perverse, then, to exclude 21. What's more, having a kidney removed is as safe as common elective surgeries and even beauty treatments (it is no more dangerous than liposuction, for example), which sets it apart from other types of living-organ donation. America already lets people buy babies from surrogate mothers, and the risk of dying from renting out your womb is six times higher than from selling your kidney.

With proper regulation, a kidney market would be 22 the current, sorry state of affairs. Sellers could be checked for disease and drug use, and cared for after operations. They could, for instance, receive health insurance as part of their payment — which would be cheap because properly screened donors appear to live longer than the average Joe with two kidneys. Buyers would get better kidneys, faster. Both sellers and buyers would do better than in the illegal market, where much of the money goes to the middleman.

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Instinct often trumps logic. Sometimes that's right. But in this case, the instinct that selling bits of oneself is 23 leads to many premature deaths and much suffering. The logical answer, in this case, is the humane one.

*[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)*

### **Tekst 4 Psst, wanna buy a kidney?**

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*Kies bij iedere open plek in de tekst het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.*

1p **17**

- A Consequently
- B In addition
- C Luckily
- D Unfortunately

1p **18**

- A are unlikely to survive
- B suffer the consequences of
- C will have to sue because of

1p **19**

- A As a result
- B On the other hand
- C To make matters worse
- D To sum up

1p **20**

- A enforce
- B ignore
- C legalise
- D restrict

1p **21**

- A cosmetic surgeons
- B governments
- C individuals
- D the elderly

1p **22**

- A a continuation of
- B a deterioration of
- C an expansion of
- D an improvement on

1p **23**

- A acceptable
- B easy
- C profitable
- D wrong