



*FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS  
FAMILIALES CATHOLIQUES EN EUROPE*

*FÖDERATION DER KATHOLISCHEN  
FAMILIENVERBÄNDE IN EUROPAS*

*FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILY  
ASSOCIATIONS IN EUROPE*

29<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Madam,  
Dear Mr. ....

The Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE), an organisation unifying 11 European associations and speaking for about 11 member families in Europe, is rather worried by the recent development of the Euthanasia subject within the Council of Europe. Actually, in my position of FAFCE President, I have already taken the liberty of addressing you regarding this issue, requesting your kind assistance for the benefit of retaining the Recommendation 1418 (1999) on "protecting the human rights and dignity of the terminally ill and the dying".

The submission of the Swiss MP Marty „Assistance to patients at end of life“, that should be the subject of the parliamentary meeting of the Council of Europe during its April-Session 2005, appears to be controversial to the existing Recommendation 1418 (1999) in spite of a plurality of amendments. In fact, having changed the name of the report from „Euthanasia“ to „Assistance to patients at end of life“ cannot disguise the circumstance that this draft intends to permit active killing upon request of third persons. The development of palliative medicine and the enhancement of the patient's rights, though, are a welcome aspect of this text.

Nevertheless, the author's reference to the conditions in Belgium and in the Netherlands as well the experience of these countries, serving him as an impulse to throw doubts at "outdated" standards, provokes rather deep reflection. Exactly the reports of the experience in these countries and the neighbouring Federal Republic of Germany show the fear of old persons due to the legalization of dying persons, as they might be killed against their own will upon request of a third person. We feel that the existence of "living desire declarations" in the mentioned countries are a clear sign that human dignity has disappeared in this connection.

The fact that this draft was accepted by only eleven members of the Parliament in the respective Social Committee is a sign that this can hardly reflect the will of the majority of the European population.

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That is why we wish to appeal to you to vote against the draft „Assistance to patients at end of life“ and for retaining the Recommendation 1418 (1999) on “protecting the human rights and dignity of the terminally ill and the dying” at the parliamentary meeting of the Council of Europe. Would you kindly exert your influence upon other members of the Parliament, in order that the Council of Europe may once again stand up as the custodian and defender of human rights and of human dignity in Europe, clearly voting against the culture of death.

Sincerely yours,

President FAFCE

President AFC, Forum, ....

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