



**International Seminar: Palliative and Social Care vs. Euthanasia**  
Congress of Deputies of Spain (“Ernest Lluch” Conference Room)  
Madrid, Spain  
26 January 2018

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**Rationale**

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In the last years we have seen another expression of the “culture of waste”<sup>1</sup> in the legalization of euthanasia or assisted suicide in certain countries. Today, assisted suicide *and* euthanasia are legal in the Netherlands (2002), Luxembourg (2009), and Canada (2016). Belgium (2002) and Colombia (2015) have legalized euthanasia. Switzerland (1942), Germany (2015), the US States of California, Oregon, Washington, Vermont, Montana, Colorado, and the District of Columbia have all legalized assisted suicide<sup>2 3</sup>. Mexico (2008) and Uruguay (2009)<sup>4</sup> have passed laws that allow stopping life-extending medical treatment of terminally ill patients. In the case of Uruguay this faculty is extended to the spouse or family member when the patient is no longer capable of making his or her own medical decisions. In Finland, Spain, Portugal, and Italy the issue is gaining ground within the parliaments of each country<sup>5</sup>.

But far from closely regulating extreme cases of terminally ill patients under strict guidelines, these laws have opened the door for other patients not contemplated under the letter of the law to request and obtain a “right to die”. In Belgium (2014) the law has been extended to children with terminal illnesses. Experts from the abovementioned countries explain that “[t]he euthanasia law never comes alone; it will create in its turn its own dynamics; it will ask for a further liberalization of the practice” and that “[t]he supply of euthanasia stirs demand, and becomes the default way to die.”<sup>6</sup>

*The real problem is that “[t]he law has the effect of not offering people enough life support.”<sup>7</sup>*

Confronted with this scenario and the imminence of parliamentary debates in certain countries, we invite you to the meeting “**International Seminar: Palliative and Social Care vs. Euthanasia**” that will take place in the Congress of Deputies of Spain in Madrid on 26 January 2018. The event will bring together politicians, legislators, experts and civil society from multiple countries to discuss this pressing challenge of our society.

*Organized by*                      *European Federation One of Us, Political Network for Values, Fundación Valores y Sociedad, Asociación Familia y Dignidad Humana, and Fundación Jérôme Lejeune España*

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, Address to participants in the meeting organized by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, 20 September 2013

<sup>2</sup> Alexandra Thompson & Sophia Kuby, “The Legalization of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: An inevitable slippery slope”, ADF International (p.2).

<sup>3</sup> “WASHPO: Legalizing Assisted Suicide Has Stalled at Every Level”, Oct. 24, 2017, <https://patientsrightsaction.org/washpo-legalizing-assisted-suicide-has-stalled-at-every-level/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lifenews.com/2009/03/19/bio-2800/>

<sup>5</sup> Alexandra Thompson & Sophia Kuby, “The Legalization of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: An inevitable slippery slope”, ADF International (p.2).

<sup>6</sup> Prof. Theo Boer in “Euthanasia documentary – English”, by ADF International. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7ME2HKsUd4>

<sup>7</sup> Idem.



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## Draft Program

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**9:00 Registration**

**9:30 Opening** by **Jaime Mayor Oreja**, President, Fundación Valores y Sociedad, and **Carlos Salvador**, Member of the Spanish Parliament for Navarra (UPN)

### **Roundtable 1: International Diagnosis**

**Sophia Kuby**, Director of EU Advocacy, ADF International (Belgium)

Presentation of the “Affirming Dignity” campaign and viewing of the [video of ADF International](#)

**José Miguel Serrano Ruiz-Calderón**, Accredited Full Professor in Philosophy of Law, *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* (Spain)

**10:45 Roundtable 2: First-hand Experience after Legalizing Euthanasia.** What the law promised compared to reality: The abuses of its implementation.

*Moderated by Luis Peral Guerra, Secretary of Familia y Dignidad Humana*

**Gayle Atteberry**, former Executive Director, Oregon Right to Life (USA)

**Carine Brochier**, Member of the Board of Directors, Institut Européen de Bioéthique (Belgium)

**Henk Reitsema**, Trustee L’Abri International, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (The Netherlands)

**María Del Rosario Guerra**, Senator (Colombia)

**Garnett Genuis**, Member of the Canadian Parliament, Conservative Party (Canada)

**12:30 Lunch**

**13:30 Roundtable 3: Confronting the “Culture of Waste”: the Cases of France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom**

*Moderated by Mónica López Barahona, President of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation Spain - (Spain)*

**Juliet Marlow**, Media and Communications, Not Dead Yet UK (UK)

**Gian Luigi Gigli**, Member of Parliament of the Italian Republic, President of the Italian Pro-life Movement (MPV) (Italy) - TBC

**Ricardo Augustus Guerreiro Baptista Leite**, Member of the Assembly of the Republic (PSD) (Portugal) TBC

**Caroline Roux**, Director, VITA International (France)

**Carlos Salvador**, Member of the Spanish Parliament for Navarra (UPN) (Spain)

**15:00 Roundtable 4: Does Good Palliative Care Make Euthanasia Obsolete? Measures that the Law Must Provide.** When it’s no longer possible to *cure*, it’s still necessary to *care for*. Protecting the life of handicapped and non-terminally ill, and conscientious objection.

*Moderated by Jacinto Bátiz, M.D., Head of the Area of Palliative Care, San Juan de Dios de Santurtzi Hospital, Secretary of the Central Commission of Ethics (CCD) of the Collegial Medical Organization (OMC) (Spain)*

**Carlos Centeno Cortés, M.D.**, Director of the Unit of Palliative Medicine and Specialist in Radiation Oncology, Clínica Universidad de Navarra (Spain)

**José Antonio Díez**, specialist in palliative care and conscientious objection, ANDOC (Spain)

**Regina Plañol**, PP Health Spokesperson in the Regional Parliament of Madrid (Spain)

**Jean-Frédéric Poisson**, President of the Christian Democratic Party (PCD) (France) - TBC

**16:30 Closing of the hearing** by **José Ramón García Hernández**, Member of the Spanish Parliament for Ávila (PP), and **Lourdes Méndez Monasterio**, President, Asociación Familia y Dignidad Humana