

LES DOSSARDS JAUNES

Press Communiqué

Euthanasia 'Les Dossards Jaunes' calls out to the political establishment.

The 'Dossards Jaunes', a collective organisation mainly comprising of young professionals, calls out to the political world on the control of euthanasia which is deficient.

The Dossards Jaunes are **calling out to the political establishment** on the following issues:

A. A lack of control of the law

Even the president of the Euthanasia commission admits that a number of euthanasia cases are unreported in Belgium and many doctors do not report them as required by law. A number of Universities (Hull in the UK and VUB) deplore the laxity of control.

Even the French Ethical Commission requested by President Francois Holland to evaluate the Belgian law has found that ' The practice of euthanasia seems to resist any effective control.' Out of 6000 cases since 2002, not one case was filed into the justice system which statistically is pretty surprising. In contrast in The Netherlands many cases were already filed.

We call for reinforcement in the control of the law in:

- A system of sanctions against-doctors who do not respect the criteria imposed by the law or who violate it and publicly
- Reduction of the quorum required for a case to be referred to Public Prosecution from 2/3 to 1/3
- Immediate renewal of the composition of the euthanasia commission and a reform of the rules so that mandates can be renewed only once
- Assure a healthy pluralism in the commission to ensure a proper way of working for all members. Is it normal to have two co-presidents who are involved publicly as militants in favour of the extension of the law for euthanasia and sit at the same time in the euthanasia commission?

Eliminate the conflicts of interest to proper coherency levels within the Euthanasia commission

4 of the 16 members of the commission are also members of the ADMD (militant pro-Euthanasia lobby). ADMD members have a curious way of carrying out their statutory control mission as members of the euthanasia commission! ADMD even boasted, on their internet site (before deleting the info after it got leaked to the media!)-that their position within the commission allows them to:

1/ Spread their (militant) ideals

2/ Make the law (allowing euthanasia) more effective

We call for the immediate resignation of all ADMD members. Being judge and party, their presence prevents the commission from functioning properly in accordance with the law's objectives.

Our collective has two objectives

1/ to inform the political establishment of the reality of the situation in terms of the state of the control of the enforcement of the law

2/ to make-concrete proposals to improve the accountability and responsibility within the commission.

As soon as next week, a letter will be sent out to the leaders of all the political parties. We will demand a concrete response to our propositions which will be made public. We will demand that they deal with these questions urgently and as a priority and not to discuss the extension to children of a law that is already out of control.

We will ask them to say explicitly whether they intend to deal with the questionable presence of ADMD in the Euthanasia control commission.

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