Committee: Legality of Euthanasia

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Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a landlocked country in Central Europe's southern region, bordering the Eastern Alps. Vienna, Austria's capital and largest city, is one of nine federated states that make up the country. The population of the country was estimated to be nearly 9 million (8.9) in 2020. Vienna’s population exceeds 1.9 million (2.6 million, including the suburbs), representing about a quarter of the country's population. It is known for its cultural offerings and high standard of living. The official language is Austrian German, Standard Austrian German is spoken in Austria, though it is used primarily just in education, publications, announcements, and websites. It is mostly identical to the Standard German of Germany but with some vocabulary differences. About 74% of Austria's population were registered as Roman Catholic, while about 5% considered themselves Protestants. Reports say that about 12% of the population declared that they have no religion according to ecclesiastical information this share had grown to 20% by 2015. Around 340,000 were registered as members of various Muslim communities in 2001, mainly due to the influx from Turkey, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

 Euthanasia also known as mercy killing is the practice of ending the life of a patient to limit the patient’s suffering. The patient in question would typically be terminally ill or experiencing great pain and suffering. Euthanasia is now commonly defined as the "painless induction of a quick and easy death." This approach, however, fails to define euthanasia because some actions might fit the definition's parameters but would not be considered euthanasia. For instance, killing someone without pain but for a personal motive. The element incorporated into many definitions is that it should be intentionality – the death must be intended, rather than being accidental, and the intent of the action must be a “merciful death”. Any definition of euthanasia must include four elements: an agent and a subject; an aim, causal proximity (the measure of whether the agent's activities lead to the desired outcome), and a result. How it works is that before dispensing the medication, the doctor or nurse practitioner must ask the patient if they still want to take it on the agreed-upon day. They must be cared for by a doctor or nurse practitioner until they pass away. The drug is taken away if they change their minds - which they can do at any time.

 Euthanasia in Austria is currently a touchy subject because we enforced a new law about euthanasia being legal in very limited circumstances. It has been decriminalized but we don’t want people to think this is a treatment option, euthanasia is an end resort for patients that have terminal illnesses, or have a permanent condition. The government has also allotted funding to enhance palliative care, according to officials Parliament approved this new law in December of 2021, following a constitutional court ruling on the issue. The practice will be each case would be assessed by two doctors, one of whom would have to be a palliative medicine specialist. We think that euthanasia isn't something that should be in everybody's eyes or an option for people, nor should it be criminalized since people can be anguished from their conditions. Just because society thinks euthanasia is a wrong thing to do something may not be wrong in every situation, and it shouldn’t be illegal to show the possibility of euthanasia to desperate patients so that they can sleep rather than suffer in misery.