

COMMITTEE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

TOPIC: Legalization of Euthanasia COUNTRY: France

Euthanasia in france regulates end-of-life procedures for incurable patients. It allows deep and continuous sedation until death for terminally ill patients in great suffering who are not predicted to live past the short term.

The current 2016 law in our country provides that doctors can keep terminally ill patients sedated until death comes but stops short of legalizing assisted suicide. The law allows for terminally ill patients to refuse treatment when it "appears unnecessary, disproportionate or when it has no other effect than the artificial maintenance of life." If the patient is unable to express their wishes, the decision must be made by the doctors in a professional manner. In all cases, the law states that "the physician must safeguard the dignity of the dying person and ensure the quality of the end of life by providing appropriate palliative care." Although the complex 2016 law is still not well known and the practice of palliative care is erratic, the regulation and publication of a new legal reform is now on our country's agenda. If the draft law were to pass, France would become the fifth European Union country to decriminalise assisted suicide, after the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain.

France presents a solution for euthanasia to occur, the patient must be over a certain age and have a full understanding of the procedure. In diseases with treatment, treatment is a priority, but the patient's request is taken as a basis.