

Committee: Legality of Euthanasia

Country: France

Topic: The Use of Euthanasia

Delegate: Zikri Yiğit Karakaya

Euthanasia also named mercy-killing is a technique of painlessly stopping a person's pain from an incurable disease or allowing them to die by withholding treatment or necessary medical equipment. Euthanasia has been a topic of debate for a long time reaching all the way to Ancient Greece and Rome. Copious amounts of people including great thinkers Plato and Socrates have discussed the moral side of Euthanasia. Currently the use of active Euthanasia is illegal in France. But passive euthanasia is permitted. Also palliative sedation, where someone requests to be deeply sedated until they die is currently allowed.

As mentioned before there are two types of Euthanasia: active and passive. Active euthanasia occurs when doctors on humanitarian grounds do something like an injection that causes the patient to die. On the other hand passive euthanasia is when doctors stop doing something to keep the patient alive, like switching off life-support machines or disconnecting feeding tubes. Around the globe active Euthanasia is legalised in 7 countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, the Netherlands and Colombia. When it comes to Euthanasia the major religions in the world are clearly against it. In Christianity various texts state that life is God's gift and the only person that can take it away is God. Well France is a Christian country with almost half of the population being Catholic. So on the religious side France doesn't support this technique. In the past there have been many actions taken in France to legalise Euthanasia. In April 2021, it was proposed to the French parliament to legalise assisted dying for people with incurable diseases but it was rejected. Showing that France is clearly unkeen to legalize Euthanasia.

Overall France views the use of Euthanasia to be immoral. The resolution France would like to see is for active Euthanasia to be illegal. While passive Euthanasia can be permitted under strict conditions. France would also like other countries to practise the technique of palliative sedation during difficult and painful situations. As palliative sedation is not unhuman because it doesn't instantly kill. But it does stop the pain just like Euthanasia while the patient is alive for some time.