Committee :World Health Organization

State : Denmark

Agenda:Legalization of Euthanasia

Denmark is a Nordic country in Northern Europe that is ruled by a constitutional monarchy with Queen Margrette II being the head of state. The country’s official language is Danish. European Denmark is the southernmost of the Scandinavian countries, lying southwest of Sweden, south of Norway and north of Germany. Denmark is a [highly developed country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country) with a high [standard of living](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_of_living): the country performs at or near the top in measures of [education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_Index), [health care](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_Denmark), [civil liberties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World), [democratic governance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Index) and [LGBT equality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Denmark). Denmark is a founding member of [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO), the [Nordic Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordic_Council), the [OECD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OECD), [OSCE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), and the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations); it is also part of the [Schengen Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schengen_Area). Denmark maintains close political, cultural, and linguistic ties with its Scandinavian neighbours, with the [Danish language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_language) being partially [mutually intelligible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutual_intelligibility) with both [Norwegian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_language) and [Swedish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swedish_language).

As of 2006 euthanasia had become the most active area of research in [bioethics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioethics). In some countries divisive public controversy occurs over the moral, ethical, and legal issues associated with euthanasia. According to the medical ethics literature, euthanasia is considered as active and passive euthanasia in terms of the way it is done, the distinction between these two euthanasias is critical and important. With active euthanasia, it is the doctor who takes the patient's life at the patient's request. This is typically done by a medical injection. Active euthanasia is prohibited in Denmark. It is punishable under Section 239 of the Penal Code, which states that "whoever kills another at the other's will shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years". In assisted suicide, it is the patient himself who takes his own life. However, that person gets help for that. This could be, for example, when a doctor prescribes deadly medicine. Assisted suicide is illegal in Denmark according to 240 of the Criminal Code. It can be punished with a fine or imprisonment for up to three years. One of the most important reasons of this prevention is avoiding misleading the public by highlighting the suicide for relieve pain and normalize euthanasia suicides. Hence, legalization of euthanasia would be a offer of death to people in pain instead of painkillers. This is an escape, not a solution.

Nevertheless, some of the actions that sometimes go by the name of "**passive euthanasia**" are, on the other hand, **permitted**. According to the act on the legal status of patients, an unavoidably dying patient has the right to opt out of treatment that will only be able to postpone death. According to the same law, a patient can receive necessary painkillers, even if they hasten the time of death. A doctor or other healthcare professional may also refrain from initiating or continuing life-prolonging treatment for unavoidably dying patients who are no longer able to exercise their right to self-determination. Therefore, this option presented as a solution for situations where it is really needed ,by avoid misuseing.

To sum up everything that has been stated so far, euthanasia is illegal however in some limited and special cases along the lines up desperate illnesses there is a kind of alternative way to shorten the patient’s life by using some necessary and hard painkillers. But, who knows what would have happened if euthanasia had been legal, with the ironically high suicide rate in the Nordic countries including Denmark. Fortunately this restriction of the practice of euthanasia gets ahead of this scenario and protect the people of the country which is the most ethical and correct thing to be done for the state.

Sources:

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