



RESOLUTION:

Good end-of-life care in the European Union

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Belgrade, on 02.12.2017

Recognizing that:

- Palliative treatment options in end-of-life conditions have improved in the past years. Conditions such as end-stage cancer, which were in the past difficult to deal with, can now be treated in much more effective way due to advances in medical treatment.
- At the same time a majority of people in need of palliative or end-of-life care, old and young, are still seeking better support and are often unaware of all the treatment options available to them.
- General ageing of the European population is a concern for most member states and the European Semester recognises that improvements could be made in health care systems in order to provide better healthcare including in palliative care.

Acknowledging that:

- Some EU Member States have legalised voluntary euthanasia. The opinion on euthanasia is split among and within EU member states.¹
- Experts have stated that the elderly in particular may experience psychological pressure to consent to voluntary euthanasia rather than be a financial burden on their families.²
- In Germany alone, there are about 765.000 patients each year in need of palliative care.³

¹ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/belgium/10346616/Belgian-killed-by-euthanasia-after-a-botched-sex-change-operation.html>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/may/26/swiss-exit-assisted-suicide-elderly-not-terminally-ill>

³ https://faktencheck-gesundheit.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/Studie_VV_FCG_Versorgungsstrukturen-palliativ.pdf

YEPP calls on:

- The EU Member States to improve end-of-life care and further explore the options available.
- The European Commission and in particular the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science to further support and strengthen trans-European research efforts on palliative and end-of-life care.
- The EU Member States to continue to improve the support systems (e.g. psychologic support) for those in the need of palliative and end-of-life care.