



Comité
Permanent des
Infirmier(e)s
de l'UE

Standing
Committee
of Nurses
of the EU

Brussels, Monday 18 April 2005

Concern: Report on the Assistance to patients at the end of life
Rapporteur: Mr. Dick Marty, Switzerland, LDR

Dear Member of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly,

The Standing Committee of Nurses of the European Union (PCN) is very pleased with the reviewed report 'Assistance to patients at the end of life', of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, presented by the rapporteur Mr. Dick Marty.

During our Spring General Assembly, held on 15-16 March 2005, in Copenhagen, PCN members analysed very carefully and discussed this very important report for nurses and nursing. PCN fully agrees with the principle of protecting the dignity and the rights of all human beings. The deliberate causing of someone's death is and should remain forbidden. There is, however, medical practice where life is being deliberately ended. We are also delighted that the report pleads for 'the introduction, where they do not yet exist, of procedures and provisions clearly defining the responsibilities of medical and nursing staff and ensuring the traceability of all decisions and measures taken, thus facilitating effective monitoring'. PCN believes that it is important that, where it doesn't exist yet, EU Member States create legislation on euthanasia and the roles and responsibilities of all healthcare professionals, especially for nurses, when and/or if involved in such a process.

PCN does not want to give ethical judgement or to promote the practice of euthanasia. But, as euthanasia is part of medical practice and as nurses are professionally involved in this process, we ask for legal action, so that roles and responsibilities are transparent for all the parties involved. Therefore, PCN is asking to the Members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly to vote in favour of this very important report for nurses and nursing.

Finally, PCN would like to congratulate Mr. Marty for his excellent work and reviewed report. We are very delighted that our concerns and views are being taken into account.

PCN is looking forward for the positive outcome of this Parliamentary Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Ria von Bönninghausen
President
Standing Committee of Nurses of the EU (PCN)