

Dear board members of Right to Die societies and participants of our biannual meeting.

Last week we experienced our biannual conference in Wemmel / Brussels in the impressing centre of all kind of end of life situations of our, alas absent, distinguished host Wim Distelmans.

Fortunately, our invited speakers: Isabel Alonso Dávila, president DMD-Cat, Dieter Birnbacher, Präsident DGHS, Agnes Wolbert, CEO NVvE and Joachim Cohen, professor at VUB assisted by Aline de Vleminck also at VUB, gave us an overview about their work for medical aid in dying.

They discussed the different aspects of the ideas and problems they meet in their daily practice concerning the end of life in their respective countries.

Professor Joachim Cohen showed us the developments in many different countries and states.

In each country a solution must be obtained seen the difficult circumstances put up by opponents such as: medical societies, religious hierarchy, politicians and many more. How can we convince them that this is the wish of about 80 to 86% of the population.

It should become a fundamental right that people are able to choose for a dignified death in their own way.

In my view it is a real problem and the ultimate solution must be found in the relation patient and the attending physician, unfortunately, behind ‘closed doors’ as long there is no legalized Medical Aid in Dying (MAD). Compassionate doctors don’t let their patients down in the end and will help them to have a dignified death on request.

The words Medical Aid in Dying cover the words euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS).

For people who want to die without any medical intervention it becomes, alas, everywhere more and more difficult to find the right medication. Even the people who help them to find a way out are in danger of an indictment.

In due course we will receive the presentations of the speakers and are allowed to forward them to you all.

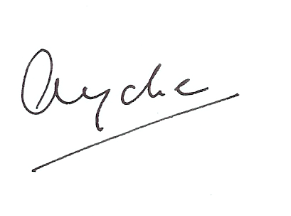
In two year’s time we will meet again, hopefully in Barcelona.

Next year the conference of WFRtDS will take place in Cape Town SA, where we all are welcome too.

We wish you a fruitful fight to gain the right to self-determination at the end of life in your countries. Do not hesitate to inform us about the progress you make or the problems you meet, we may be able to help you in one way or another.

‘In harmonization you upsurge power’.

Best wishes and a fighting spirit for you all on behalf of the board of RtDE,



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