

Section 03. Legal Issues

Agneta Babenko
J.J. Brodeczkaya, research supervisor
I.P. Nikitina, language adviser
National Metallurgical Academy, Dnepropetrovsk

Euthanasia. Premeditated Murder or Mercy Killing?

In European countries this issue is widely discussed. The European Union is gaining recognition as a single entity, espousing European views, on the world stage. As we strive to the European Union, we should understand what circumstances we will have in one or another decision.

Euthanasia (from Greek - good death) refers to the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering. Many religions think that euthanasia is immoral. Some religions regard it as a type of murder. Talking about jurisprudence there are different euthanasia laws in each country. The British House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics defines euthanasia as "a deliberate intervention undertaken with the express intention of ending a life, to relieve intractable suffering". In the Netherlands, euthanasia is understood as "termination of life by a doctor at the request of a patient".

Euthanasia is categorized in different ways, which include voluntary, non-voluntary, or involuntary. Should euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide be legal?

Proponents of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide (PAS) contend that terminally ill people should have the right to end their suffering with a quick, dignified, and compassionate death. Opponents of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide contend that doctors have a moral responsibility to keep their patients alive as reflected by the Hippocratic Oath. They argue there may be a "slippery slope" from euthanasia to murder.

On 19 April 2012, an ideological press conference was held which tendentiously blamed the Ukrainian government for forcing the patients in Ukraine to suffer. The aim of this demagoguery is to manipulate the public opinion into the acceptance of euthanasia failed.

After all, it's difficult to make a conclusion and this issue is still open. Nevertheless, from the lawyer's point of view, euthanasia can lead to abuse of medical duty. Doctors will not cure patients properly. Euthanasia has risk of certain abuse if relatives of an ill person have grounds for enrichment. Ill person dies; there is heritage, so it concerns also economic motives.