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### **THE QUESTION OF EUTHANASIA**

Certainly, this issue is the subject of numerous debates and a discussion about it is like polemic. It is connected to the fact that the quintessence of this issue is a life of a person, which is the highest social value in our world.

We can find a mention of this in the Article 3 of Ukrainian Constitution. However, till nowadays the question of euthanasia is

actual, and even there are some countries where this procedure is already legal, but we'll talk about it later.

So, what is it euthanasia? Euthanasia - is the practice of termination of human life who is suffering of some incurable illnesses. The term "euthanasia" first time was used by Francis Bacon in the 16th century for the definition of "easy death". Before the Second World War, the idea of euthanasia has been widespread in many European countries. That time euthanasia and eugenics were really popular in medical circles. However, the actions of the Nazis discredited these ideas.

Nowadays, the issue of euthanasia is very controversial, but this practice is already legal in some countries. The Netherlands became pioneers in legalization of voluntary death. In 1984, the Supreme Court recognized that voluntary euthanasia was acceptable. 1 April, 2002 , euthanasia became legal in the Netherlands. Except the Netherlands, euthanasia is legal in 4 countries and 5 states of the USA.

Legalizing of euthanasia has several important sticking points. First, is the legal side of the issue. We should understand that the desire to introduce a law of euthanasia leads to changes in the legislation. According to the constitutions of the most countries, human life is a supreme social value and deprivation of life is a criminal offense.

Consequently, the changes are required in the Constitution and the Criminal Code. Also, this issue is opposite with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of the United Nations and Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Second problem is a moral and ethical conflict. Many people consider euthanasia as a murder, but don't take to humanity in relation to the dying person. It is not surprising, as people are used to think so emotionally about issues of life and death. In the same time, doctors according to their work, and having the experience with seriously ill patients and fatalities - are more rational in this regard.

So, by results of sociological researches in the former USSR countries, euthanasia is supported by 15-30% of the respondents among citizens and approximately 50% among physicians.

The third problem on the way of the legalization of euthanasia - is a religion.

The confrontation of the idea of euthanasia and religion is very clear, and therefore, I think, isn't necessary to explain it. Moreover, euthanasia is a contrary to the Hippocratic Oath, which is sworn by every future doctor. There are just clear statements: "I will not give anybody a deadly essence and will not show the way for such a plan."

The Ukrainian government refused this idea, in connection with the realizing of the volume of problem which will be in case of legalization of euthanasia. Personally, I consider that in our country this procedure is not relevant and unreasonable.

But the possibility of losing life by euthanasia is still present. There is a term "suicidal tourism", when potential candidates organize trips to countries where euthanasia is permitted, with the hope of decriminalization of this practice.

So, in our country a legalization of euthanasia would be threatened by new problems, such as organ trade, pressing of the elderly and the disabled people, with the purpose to obtain the property as the inheritance, etc. - so rejection of the appropriate bill is quite rational. At the same time, this practice can take place in the modern world. Because in the opposite to all, human is the sole owner of his life. And taking to account all the "pluses" and "minuses" of this procedure, we must understand, that only a human being can personally decide "to be or not to be".