

Joint statement by

Europa laica (Spain), the Atheists and Free Thinkers' Union of Spain,
and the French National Federation of the Free Thought (France)

(Member Organizations of the European Liaison Committee of the FreeThought)

***ANOTHER CRIME AGAINST THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN TO FREELY
DECIDE FOR THEIR OWN BODY IS BEING PREPARED IN SPAIN!!!***

***The Popular Party, which holds an absolute majority of MPs in Spain,
is pushing to change the law on abortion implemented since 2010.***

The blue-print of the bill “on protecting the life of the unborn child and the rights of the pregnant woman” adopted by the Rajoy government provides only two cases for de-criminalization of abortion:

- The existence of a great danger for the life or the physical or mental health of the mother during the first 22 weeks of pregnancy;
- When pregnancy is the result of a crime against liberty or sexual assault, when abortion can

take place within the first twelve weeks of pregnancy and on the condition that legal action is filed.

The 2010 law, still in force, provides that abortion is possible without claiming any reason within the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. This law provides legal time-limits similar to those existing in a majority of EU countries.

What the Popular Party wants, in complicity with the most fundamentalist groups of international Catholi-

cism, is to return to situations when women do not have any longer the right to de-



cide motherhood; they will have to justify that the right of the unborn child are not in conflict with their own rights.

Under the 2010 law, under-age girls from 16 to 17 had simply to inform their parents, unless they should claim special reasons not to do so such as bad relations with their parents or when the latter would have forced them not to undergo abortion.

Under the new law, parents will be compelled to go with them and decide for them.

Under the 2010 law, it was possible to interrupt pregnancy of more than 22 weeks if there was “foetal abnormality” incompatible with life, which was to be mentioned in the pre-diagnosis issued by a physician, different from the surgeon performing abortion. Also it allowed abortion when an extremely serious and incurable disease is diagnosed in the foetus, the diagnosis should be confirmed by a clinical committee.

Under the provisions of the blue-print by the Popular Party, the possibility of abortion because of a foetal disease is withdrawn and is still submitted to the impact of the disease on the mother. Evidence is

required that the woman may suffer from “important non-irreversible damage, although important and durable” damages in her mental or physical health. And that requires motivated advice by two specialized physicians who are not allowed to work in the hospital where abortion is performed.

As for the disease “incompatible with life”, requirements are doubled: a medical record shall confirm those risks for the mother and another medical record for the foetal diseases tested in accordance with the Bio-ethical Committee of Spain.

The French National Federation of the Free Thought, Europa Laica and the Atheists and Free Thinkers’ Union of Spain denounce this blue-print of a bill and consider it as another national Catholic crusade launched against freedom of conscience for women, behind which there is the Catholic hierarchy on its highest level (the Vatican) as well as “pro-life” organizations.

Isn’t this attack, praised by the European far-right political parties, a preparation for a bigger attack on a wider scale, in the European or global context? Should we not feel concerned?

That is why the undersigned organizations demand the repeal of this blue-print of a bill and call upon secular and free-thought organization to come together and get that repeal.