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24.11.2010

## Medical treatment in end of life situations : Europe wide debate on the decision making process

**Date and place :** 30 November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 in Strasbourg (Room 1, Palais de l'Europe) : Symposium on decision making process regarding medical treatment in end of life situations.

**Organised by** the Council of Europe, Bioethics Division

**Description :** In Europe, more than one in two persons die in health care institutions, following increasingly lengthy periods of treatment. What criteria should be applied when deciding to begin, limit or withdraw medical treatment in end-of-life situations? Who are the actors participating in such decisions? Doctors, care teams, patients, relatives - what should be their respective role in the process? What should happen when patients are not able to express their will? And how can patient's previously expressed wishes be taken into account?

Health professionals, lawyers, philosophers and sociologists, patients' associations and national ethic committees' representatives will attend this symposium to launch a Europe-wide debate on the issues, favouring an approach based on practical examples.

The aim of the symposium is to clarify concepts in order to dispel potential misunderstandings, and to identify points of convergence. The conclusions of the symposium could then be used as a basis for the elaboration of guidelines on the decision-making process concerning medical treatment in end-of-life situations.

The Symposium will be opened on Tuesday 30 November at 9am. Dr Régis Aubry, President of the National Observatory on the End of Life and Coordinator of the National Programme on Palliative Care Development, will draw early conclusions on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11.30am

### Practical information:

- The conference is **open to the press**, and **will be broadcast live on the Council of Europe website** [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)
- Interviews will be organised on the spot and by telephone.
- **Journalists are invited to apply for accreditation.**

### Further information

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