



Federation of Young European
Greens

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Legalize Abortion – give women the right to decide!

Policy paper as adopted during the General Assembly 2009, Maastricht.

Laws on abortion have always been discussed controversially in European societies. The statutes differ from prohibition (for example in Poland where abortion is only legal after rape or due to medical indication and in Malta or Ireland, where it is prohibited whatever the context) to a quite liberal legislation (UK).

Each year thousands of women die because of illegal abortion. In our opinion prohibition is no solution to the problem of unwilling pregnancy. There will always be possibilities to do it – too often without the desired consequences but with negative impacts physically as well as psychologically, not to mention financial issues. To prosecute abortion is no solution to these problems. In fact countries with psychological consultation and access to free abortion have the lowest abortion rates.

There are a lot of reasons for the legalization of abortion and the most important one is the **strong, unalienable right of all human beings to be master/mistress over their body.**

That is why we condemn the conservative ambitions to tighten laws concerning abortion and demand in contrast that abortion should not be prohibited in general. We support a legislation in which abortion is generally permitted and has to be paid by public medical insurance. Access to public medical attention must be guaranteed, so no conscious impediment should be taken into consideration not to assist a woman.

We strongly criticize that in some societies distinctions are being drawn between “disabled” and other children when it comes to legal issues and time frames of abortion.

Furthermore it is very important for us to assure psychological consultation for all people involved! Too often these decisions whether the abortion happens or not are made without consulting experts in these fields. This must change for the sake of everyone involved.

Moreover we demand an adequate education in this field for all gynaecologists in order to improve the medical methods! We strongly believe that a proper education as regard as sexuality and contraception is fundamental, not only for teenagers but also in a life-long process. It is obvious that no woman ever wishes to face the issue of abortion. However, when abortion is the only choice left, the legislation must ensure the best conditions for women to face this situation.