Matić Report: COMECE calls EU parliament to vote with responsibility

17 June 2021
COMECE, 17 June 2021

The Secretariat of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) released a position paper on the 'Matić Report' on Thursday 17 June 2021, ahead of its final submission to the upcoming EU Parliament Plenary session. The Catholic Church recognises the importance of protecting the health and rights of women and calls on all MEPs to take into account the sensitive and complexity of the issue at stake, which *"requires a lawful and ethical balancing of all rights involved"*.

In view of the final vote on the draft report on *"The situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the framework of women's health"*, often referred to as the 'Matić Report', the Secretariat of COMECE releases a position paper highlighting the importance the Catholic Church gives to human health as *"an essential basis for a dignified life"*.

In the document, the Secretariat of COMECE welcomes *"the fundamental concern of the report to protect the health and rights of women"*, while expressing objections to several representations and arguments made in the draft resolution.

In violation of the subsidiarity principle, the draft resolution disregards the responsibility of the Member States to define their health policy and the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care. *"This is also and especially true in highly sensitive areas such as the regulations adopted by the Member States on the conditions for abortion"* – reads the statement.

The COMECE position paper notes with regret that *"the draft resolution is characterised by a one-sided perspective throughout, particularly on the issue of abortion, which does not take full account of the life situations of the persons concerned and of their corresponding human rights"*.

According to the COMECE Secretariat, the Matić Report also *"negates the fundamental right to conscientious objection, which is an emanation of freedom of conscience as foreseen by Article 10.1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union"*.

The Catholic Church recognises the importance of protecting the health and rights of women and calls on all MEPs to take into account the sensitive and complexity of the issue at stake, *"which requires a lawful and ethical balancing of all rights involved"*.

In consideration of the above-mentioned elements and ahead of the June 2021 EP Plenary session, the COMECE Secretariat calls on all MEPs to duly consider the sensitivity and complexity of medical accompaniment, which requires a lawful and ethical balancing of all rights involved.

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COMECE Position paper on Matić ReportDownload