



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Statement of the Standing Committee of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) on the proposal of President Macron to include a right to abortion in the Charter of Fundamental Rights

Following President Macron's speech to the European Parliament on 19 January 2022 with his proposal to update the European Charter of Fundamental Rights to include the recognition of a right to abortion, we would like to express our deep concern and opposition.

Since its beginning, the European integration process has always been supported and accompanied closely by the Church. We agree with President Macron on the importance of defending and promoting the values of the European Union. But we would like to point out that one of the main values is the respect for the dignity of every human person in every stage of his or her life, especially in situations of complete vulnerability, as is the case of an unborn child. The founding fathers of the European Union, based on the genuine humanistic tradition that makes Europe what it is, were very conscious of the fundamental importance of the inalienable dignity of the human person as well as of community as common ground for our Union.

We are aware of the tragedy and complexity of the situations in which mothers considering an abortion find themselves. Caring for women who are in a difficult or a conflict situation because of their pregnancy is a central part of the diaconal ministry of the Church and must also be a duty exercised by our societies. Women in distress should not be left alone, nor can the right to life of the unborn child be ignored. They both must receive all necessary help and assistance.

From a legal perspective there is no recognized right to abortion in European or international law. Attempting to change this by introducing a supposed right to abortion in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, not only goes against fundamental European beliefs and values, but would be an unjust law, devoid of an ethical foundation and destined to be a cause of perpetual conflict among the citizens of the EU. European integration should always foster and promote respect for different identities and avoid ideological impositions. In this sense, the proposal of President Macron of inserting this supposed right can in no way be seen as “breathing new life into our basic rights”.



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