

EPSU adopts emergency resolution to stop anti-abortion law in Spain

(3 June 2014) EPSU at its 9th Congress adopted on 23 May an emergency resolution on the Spanish government's proposals to reform abortion law.

There is massive opposition to this bill across Spain. The government has suspended the parliamentary process afraid of the impact on the vote in the European elections. EPSU's Spanish affiliates fear that immediately after the election the government will resume the process.

It deprives women of the right to choose whether to carry on with their pregnancy. Only in very limited cases will this right be available and even then it will require that at least three experts approves her decision. This procedure implies that women are incapable of making decisions by themselves.

EPSU welcomes this resolution also in the light of the decision of the European Commission on 28 May 2014 to take no further action on the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "One of Us". In the "One of Us" campaign, led by ultra-conservative, pro-life movements asked that the Commission cut off all funding for research on human embryonic stem cells and funding for any organisations that are involved in the provision of indirect or direct abortion or "abortion-related" services. This would have had grave consequences for women's health and lives and forced women to seek unsafe abortion services. Already an estimated 47,000 women die each year from complications related to unsafe abortion.

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