

Mr. President, Dear friends,

Even though I come from a very small country, Luxembourg, you'll see that what is going on there is very relevant for our conference today.

First of all, in Luxembourg nearly all political parties both in Parliament and outside of Parliament consider themselves to be so called "progressive" parties, with the only exception of the small conservative party ADR which I represent here today. ADR is represented in Parliament, where it has only 3 out of 60 MPs. Our electoral result in the last elections was slightly under 7%.

Luxembourg is currently governed by a left wing three-party coalition consisting of the Liberals, the Socialists and the Greens. The Christian-Social Party, which is by far the largest party, and the ADR Conservatives are together in opposition. But surprisingly enough, the Christian Social Party (CSV), stands commonly also for left-wing positions in ethical issues, meaning for instance that they are not pro-life respectively that they try to support systematically so-called "progressive" questions in society.

Luxembourg has become probably the one country in Europe together with Belgium and the Netherlands that has drifted to far left positions, in all the essential fields of ethics that we are discussing in this forum. By the way, former Prime Minister Juncker, who is the present President of the European Commission has been instrumental to this development.

The media are free in theory in Luxembourg but they are all close in practise to some political party. The only political party in Parliament that does unfortunately not have a newspaper of its own is my own, the conservative party.

That means that the newspapers do not criticise the evolutions as they are now in Luxembourg because they do not want to question the policies of their respective parties. At the best, there is silence, but usually we see everywhere active one-sided propaganda for left-wing theories in all the media.

Other important actors in our society, such as the Catholic Church, are also largely silent due to a number of factors. One of those being that the Catholic Church is historically close to the Christian Social Party which itself defends so-called progressive views. Instead of defending her faith, the Church prefers to remain silent.

We live therefore in a society that is, with the exception of a few very small NGOs, totally influenced by political or other forces in society that do not defend any more the principle of the protection of life.

In detail:

1. Abortion

As far as the question of abortion is concerned the leftist government that is in office since 2013, has de-penalized and liberalized abortion in the first 3 months of a pregnancy.

There is only one legal condition for an abortion, that is a prior medical consultation and this one may precede immediately the act of the abortion itself. In practice, what happens is that a pregnant woman goes to such a medical consultation and can abort immediately afterwards on the same spot. There is no control, there is no delay, there is no provision that would in any way help the woman to maybe rethink her decision. There are no provisions that are effectively in favour of the protection of unborn child.

The Christian Social Party has largely supported, even though not unanimously, this law. Basically the CSV would have wished to introduce a second consultation, but that is all.

So even if the Christian Social Party came again to power after the next legislative elections in October 2018, it is not to be expected that this law on abortion would be changed again.

2. Homosexual “marriage”

The Christian Social Party itself initiated and prepared a legislation on homosexual marriage when it was still in power until 2013.

When the current leftist government came into power in October 2013, they immediately implemented that legislation, of course with the support of the Christian Social Party, allowing homosexual marriage including adoption of children by homosexual couples.

Homosexual marriage is not only legal but is also largely celebrated by the media as a major progress for so-called LGTB “rights”. Those who still oppose homosexual marriage, this means only ADR, are portrayed as “homophobic” in the media.

3. Transsexuals

The leftist government has recently introduced a draft legislation into parliament which aims at making it extremely easy to change one’s gender on a simple declaratory basis, so that a person who feels to be from another sex can easily go to an administration and change his or her gender. No medical acts shall be required.

4. Euthanasia

This option has been introduced already 6 or 7 years ago. It is not widely practised but still, it is practised on a regular basis. And the advocates of euthanasia try hard to further promote that practice.

They are clearly not satisfied with the still relatively low number of people who get euthanized, in spite of a very liberal law.

The control mechanisms are weak. Some of the main advocates of euthanasia are members of the control commission that is supposed to check whether euthanasia has been done “correctly”, that means in accordance with the law.

The control is only post-mortem, so even if they would find anything criticisable, which of course they never do, it would be too late to save any person.

The Christian Social Party again is divided on the question of euthanasia and tries therefore to erase the difference between euthanasia and palliative care in our legislation. Therefore they have suggested to forge the 2 respective laws on euthanasia and palliative care into one single act of law so that it would be politically easier for them to support euthanasia, since it would be less visible and less distinguishable from palliative care.

5. Procreation

The next question is the question of surrogacy and medically assisted procreation.

A law is under work in parliament which is mainly sponsored by the green party but supported by the socialists, the liberals and again by at least most, if not all MPs from the Christian Social Party.

This new law, if adopted, would basically allow nearly everything, even procreation post-mortem. If the future father has died and the mother still wants a child from him, she should be allowed to do so. The law would thus allow the intentional creation of semi-orphans.

The law would indirectly also allow surrogacy in a very hypocritical way. Surrogacy would be forbidden in Luxembourg but if parents go abroad to use the service of a surrogate mother and then come back with the child, the child would be fully recognised with all its rights and the parents would not be punished.

That means basically going abroad and coming back after surrogacy would give these parents full rights and therefore it would only be a detour to *de facto* allow surrogacy in Luxembourg.

To be even more precise: medically assisted procreation, especially for Lesbians, is already widely practised for the moment, since there is no law on the issue. Clearly, there are also big financial interests at stake.

We recently also had one case of 2 homosexual men who went to the United States where they rented a surrogate mother and came back with the child. Our main TV station, RTL, has even made at least 2 broadcast emissions on that subject and has very favourably presented those two people, almost as heroes for the case of LGBT people. There has been no criticism in the media whatsoever.

In this context, one has to know that our main TV station is also largely controlled by political parties and is therefore not entirely free.

For instance in the case of the biggest broadcasting station in our country, RTL, the three biggest political parties, the Christian-Socials, the Socialists and the Liberals are all represented in the Board of Governors. Those parties do agree to generously finance RTL out of the State budget. Many RTL journalists also go into politics and join one of those three parties after some years.

6. Conclusion

In all fields of ethical relevance, Luxembourg has become a country that causes deep concern, a forerunner of many negative evolutions where human rights are seriously threatened.

I would like to end my presentation by an appeal:

Please do not concentrate your attention only on the larger European states but exert pressure also on my small country because it has become a kind of laboratory for the left in Europe, not only in our more direct field of interest but also in other fields such as voting rights for foreigners, abolition of the very concept of a Nation and so on. . .

This goes of course widely unnoticed by the larger public in Europe but this makes the situation even more dangerous in the long run.

Please help us to awake consciousness in Luxembourg and put Luxembourg on the agenda internationally so that at least part of our public opinion might get a chance again to become conscious of what is happening.

And please put pressure on the Christian Social Party and the Church so that they should raise their voices at last to defend human life.

Let me perhaps, if I have one last minute, say a word on my own political party.

Since we defend traditional values and since many people of faith are joining my party, it certainly comes as no surprise to you that we are often portrayed as homophobic, sexist, right wing extremists, populists, etc.

I think that you all understand this situation because in most of our countries we experience similar problems. The left is still internationally much better organized and inter-connected as the right.

I really appreciate and I am deeply grateful for the occasion to speak here. This is a sign of trust for my party which tries to uphold the values which we all stand for and I see in this attitude and in your generosity towards us a precious sign of support and encouragement for my party in which I have the honour to serve as a vice-president.

I thank you wholeheartedly for your confidence and I am looking forward to our further exchanges and cooperation.