Due to increasing social issues arising from technological advancement, each year we are faced with new ethical questions.

In response, the European Institute of Bioethics has decided to provide well documented information in order to raise awareness in these ethical areas.

The following are some of our current challenges, our means of action and what we need in order to succeed.

1. The EIB is renowned for its scientific rigour. We are therefore consulted regularly: three fact-finding missions in a parliamentary framework (France, Canada and Belgium) and three Affidavits written for Superior Courts of Justice (Canada, New Zealand and South Africa) concerning the evaluation of the euthanasia law as practiced in Belgium.

2. Our online visibility is encouraging. The documents and publications on our website (www.ieb-eib.org) are increasingly being consulted.

3. The EIB’s bulletins are sent by e-mail every week to 7,000 subscribers.

4. In addition to the 45 thematic reports already available online, we publish a further 6 reports each year.

5. The 24 topic sheets, « One topic, one page », published in French, Dutch and English, support the ethical reflection of young people and teachers in their work.

6. The reporting on the EIB’s viewpoint in Belgian and international press represent an important aspect in reaching leading media such as Le Figaro, France Culture, Atlantico, The Independent, The Economist, The Guardian, BBC, The Washington Post as well as others based in Denmark, Spain, Poland, Germany, Russia, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, etc., all of which touch an important target audience.

7. The EIB takes part in seminars and conferences in both private, academics and European settings including the European Parlement.

8. Advanced classes on bioethical issues that we organise for both youth and caregivers are proving very successful. The « Convergence Soignants » cycles and the « Soirées de la Bioéthique » meet their expectations, not to mention the "Université de la Vie", which is held in 141 cities (6 Belgian ones) in partnership with Vita International.
Our principal commitments

1. ABORTION

A number of draft legislations were submitted in favour of total decriminalisation of abortion in Belgium. We published a full report that has been widely distributed: the law, statistics, insights on the breaches of the current bill and ethical questions. Several meetings were arranged with elected representatives. The public was alerted and is now mobilising.

2. EUTHANASIA

Since 2002 more and more people die by euthanasia in Belgium. In reaction to the normalising of euthanasia, the EIB cooperated with Alliance Vita in Portugal and France and via the World Medical Association.

Using social sciences and reason, the EIB develops numerous arguments to support its position. It is also enlightened by testimonies of carers facing an increasing demand in euthanasia.

3. THREAT TO FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

There is today a desire to limit conscientious freedom drastically. The EIB has, as its main objective, to alert and support healthcare professionals who are being confronted whether by a demand for abortion or euthanasia. The EIB’s brochure on freedom of conscience for healthcare professionals, «Clauses of Conscience for the Benefit of Health Professionals», gives legal and factual elements by posing ethical questions. It is now in its third edition. It is vital for society that we support the choice of health professionals in their vocation to provide care to those in need.

Why Should You Commit Financially to Our Side?

We are working very hard to ensure continued financial support for the EIB. It is important to note that our activity does not fall into any institutional framework that receives public subsidies in Belgium (such as culture, teaching or assistance to the disadvantaged). Moreover, these frameworks do not allow our donations from private sources to be tax deductible, thus depriving us of an important incentive for potential donors. Consequently, in order for the EIB to continue its work, we must depend on private donors who are strong advocates of the respect and promotion of human life. This support allows us to maintain a dissonant, but vital, voice in the crucial discussion taking place today, which will define our society for decades to come. In order for the EIB to continue to resonate this "other" voice, to cultivate this priority to Life, we need your regular financial commitment to our side.

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So that the EIB can continue to echo this «other» voice for a real open debate, we need your regular financial commitment to our side.
Honorary Committee

Jacques BORDE, Physician, former Director of Research at the CNRS, France.

H.S.H. Prince Nikolaus of LIECHTENSTEIN.

Albert GUILGUI, Chief Rabbi of Brussels.
Chevalier Benoît LENGELE, Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

Scientists and professors show their support to the values defended by the EIB by lending their name and expertise to the EIB’s initiatives.

Legal practitioners

Roberto ANDORNO, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Martin BUIJSEN, Doctor of Law, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Jean-Marie LE MENE, Magistrate, President of the Jérôme Lejeune Foundation, Paris, France.

Bertrand MATHIEU, Professor at Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) University, Director of the Constitutional Law Research Centre, Paris, France.

Mary J. SHARIFF, BSc LLB LLM PhD, Associate Professor Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba, Canada.

Philosophers

Pierre-Olivier ARDUIN, director of the French Institute of Ethics, Tours, France.

Herman DE DIJN, Professor of Modern Philosophy, Hoger Instituut voor Wijsbegeerte, KULeuven, Belgium.

Alain de BROCA, Dr ès Sciences, Dr in Philosophy, HDR, Neuropaediatrician, CHU Amiens, France.

Michel GHINS, Professor of Philosophy of Sciences, UC Louvain, Belgium.

Neil J. SCOLDING, FRCP Ph.D., Linacre Centre, LONDON, and Institute of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Bristol, U.K.

Margaret SOMERVILLE, Founding Director, Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, McGill University, Canada. Professor of Bioethics, University of Notre Dame, Sydney, Australia.

Representation of the budget (150,000€) necessary for the good functioning of the E.I.B.

- Training of caregivers: 27.5%
- Animations of group: 13.5%
- Interventions in the press: 13.2%
- Training sheets: 13.2%
- Thematic reports: 25.2%
- EIB Newsletters: 7.4%

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