

RETTE TIL LIV  
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Denmark  
March 12. 2025



Ms. Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels, Belgium

**Subject: ECI "My Voice My Choice"**

Dear President von der Leyen,

As the President of Retten til Liv (Right to Life, Denmark) and speaking on behalf of all our members from Denmark, I write to you to express our firm opposition to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "My Voice My Choice" and to reaffirm the need for the European Commission to respect human dignity, the right to life, and the legal competences of the EU as defined in the Treaties.

Our organization is part of the **ECI "One of Us"**, which in 2012/13 collected **1.721.626 signatures** in support of a petition that requested the EU **to adopt legislation that would guarantee that no EU funds can be used to finance or promote any activity involving the destruction of a human embryo.**

In its response to our ECI, the European Commission essentially argued that the proposed legislation was not necessary, because the EU never had financed any such activities, and did not intend to do so in the future.

Even at the time, this response seemed somewhat disingenuous. If the Commission really had no intention to finance activities involving the destruction of embryo, why would it be a problem to enact legislation that clearly states that such activities cannot be financed?

We have now been informed that, despite its disingenuous denial in 2014, the European Commission indeed supports abortion, notably by propping up pro-abortion lobbies such as the "International Planned Parenthood Federation" (IPPF) and "European Women's Lobby" EWL (EWL) through lavish so-called operating grants that amount 80% of their respective annual budgets. These organisations, in turn, are openly supporting, and very possibly also financing, the ECI "My Voice, My Choice", which invites the EU to spend further EU funds, this time to directly finance abortions.

All this creates the very unfortunate impression of the European Commission setting up its very own "civil society", a taxpayer-funded artifice, in order to falsify and distort the political process in a way that is totally inappropriate for a community of states that claim to be committed to democratic values.

Even worse, this **wilful distortion of the democratic process** takes place in order to promote and facilitate what **is the gravest of all possible human rights violations, the deliberate killing of innocent children** before they have even seen the light of this world.

“One of Us” was a genuine citizens’ initiative, not one supported by “non-governmental organisations that rely almost entirely on governmental money, or artificially propped up by public funds. It collected more statements of support than “My Voice, My Choice” appears to have received. It promoted genuine moral values instead of raw and unfettered egotism.

It asked for the protection of children, not their destruction. And while “One of Us” called on the EU to respect the values as well as the allocation of competences enshrined in the Treaties, the ECI “My Voice, My Choice” is a badly disguised invitation to violate both.

The EU must remain faithful to its founding principles, which include respect for human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights. Any attempt to push an agenda that undermines the right to life is a direct violation of these principles.

Furthermore, abortion does not fall within the competence of the European Union. Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) strictly limits EU action to areas where competence has been conferred by the Member States. The issue of abortion remains within the exclusive jurisdiction of national governments, in full accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. Any interference in this domain would constitute an overreach of EU authority and a disregard for the democratic decisions of individual Member States.

We therefore urge the European Commission to:

- Acknowledge that the demands made by the ECI "My Voice My Choice" fall outside the EU's legal competence and inform the organizers of that ECI that it will not take any action to follow up on their initiative.
- Instead reconsider the demands that were made in 2012/13 by “One of Us” on behalf of 1.721.626 EU citizens and propose legislative amendments to guarantee that no EU funds will be used to finance activities that involve, presuppose, or promote the killing of human embryos.
- Stop the funding of IPPF and EWL, as these organisations are pushing an agenda that stands in clear contradiction to human rights and fundamental EU values.

On behalf of all our members, we strongly call upon the European Commission to act in full compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and the democratic will of the Member States, rejecting any attempt to introduce EU-wide policies on abortion.

We trust in your commitment to uphold the Treaties and to respect the fundamental rights of all, particularly the most vulnerable members of our societies.

Yours sincerely,

Kristoffer Nystrup Dahl  
President  
Retten til Liv (Right to Life)  
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