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## ON THE DRAFT LAW ON ABORTION IN SPAIN

### AGAINST THE DRAFT LAW ON PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND IN DEFENSE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND VOLUNTARY TERMINATION PREGNANCY

In front of the adoption of the Draft Law designed to protect the rights of pregnant women that has recently presented the conservative Government in Spain, we European Greens want to show our opposition to a Draft Law that represents an unacceptable step back on women's rights to decide about their own bodies. It also represents a direct aggression to women's rights and freedom.

The proposed Law on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and voluntary interruption of pregnancy presented by the PP conservative Government means a disparagement for women's rights. From a strong ultraconservative and reactionary perspective, it responds to the pressures and the desire of the Spanish Episcopal Conference and it means the hardest step back on this field of our democratic era.

Limiting abortion in only two cases, when serious danger of physical or mental health, and for life of the pregnant woman; and when pregnancy as the result of a crime rape, it places Spanish legal framework far away from international treaties. Far away from many European Resolutions, and from any of the recommendations of the World Health Organization in the field of sexual and reproductive rights. And it relegates women's rights to the levels of countries that do not subscribe to international treaties and violates human rights.

On the proposed Draft, the right for women to decide on their own body is transferred to the supervision of doctors, who at the same time, are placed under penal threats based on retrogrades moral criteria that have little to do with ethics or scientific criteria.

The ideological basis of this Draft Law is considering women as subjects without rights that should be tutelary, and undermine their freedom by prioritizing the defence of the supposed rights "of the conceived".

This misogynist fundamentalism brings Spain back to the times where abortion was only the privilege of those who could economically afford it. Encouraging, thus, economic discrimination that will bring women to clandestine abortions, increasing the risk for their health and their lives.

This Draft Law only follows the general framework of the ideological basis of the conservative policies and laws that the conservative PP Government has been applying since their arrival in 2011 in many fields such as social and workers rights, environmental or educational.

It has been proven that these so restrictive laws are completely useless in terms of reducing unwanted pregnancies. Data shows that the rate of miscarriage is lower in countries where

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more permissive laws. It is, therefore, a Draft Law that will not mean effective solutions to reduce the number of abortions by being the result of hypocrisy and the imposed institutional sexism that promotes the reactionary right.

The promotion of health and sexual education are the measures that public institutions must prioritize to secure and strengthen sexual and reproductive rights. Voluntary termination of pregnancy and contraception methods should be guaranteed rights from the public health system.

We must continue the fighting, not only to avoid any step back, but for all the remaining steps to advance on achieving all women's rights in Spain and elsewhere.

For all these reasons, and against the serious attack of social and civil rights the sexist patriarchal culture that the Spanish Government expressing in many fields,

we, European Greens,

- Call the Spanish Government for an immediate withdrawal of the Draft Law on Abortion, cynically called for the protection of the rights of the pregnant woman and of the rights of the conceived.
- Will continue defending the rights and freedom for women, and will continue boosting initiatives and measures to improve along the EU, policies on sexual and reproductive rights that allow women to freely decide on her maternity.
- Support and encourage the feminist movement in the struggle for the rights and freedom for women in order to avoid serious setback imposed by this sexist government.

Alternattiva Demokratika, the Green Party, Malta, register their objection