

Namur, 9th may 2001

For the attention of the
European Association for Palliative Care
Board Members
Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori
Via Venezian, 1
20133 Milan
Italy

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Further to the 7th Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care that was held in Palermo at the beginning of April 2001, the Wallonne Federation for Palliative Care (Belgium) would like to draw your attention on two important issues:

1. In first place, as far as the language is concerned, French should always be included among the ones foreseen for simultaneous translation – and not only during the plenary sessions and 2 workshops as it was done in Palermo. French speaking lecturers should have the possibility to express themselves in French, during their presentation (with simultaneous translation, obviously). About 150 Belgians have attended the congress in Sicily, and so did many people from France, Canada, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Morocco...
Moreover, simultaneous translation should also be foreseen for the hosting language in order to give the possibility to many local people to participate, even if they only speak their native language.
2. In second place, we would like to insist on the importance of another aspect of Palliative Care. We have the feeling that the medical aspect is getting more and more the upper hand within the congresses of the European Association for Palliative Care. We believe that more space should also be given to other disciplines (volunteers, nurses, psychologists...).

We hope that you will take note of the above two remarks that are meant to improve the future meetings.

Our best regards,

Pierre Rondal
The President