

**PRESS RELEASE FORO DE LA FAMILIA / SPANISH FAMILY FORUM**

**The rejection of the initiative ' One of Us ' alienates European institutions from feeling they are citizens of the European Union**

***In a Europe, in which the dignity of the human embryo is worth less than the economic interests of certain business lobbies, the rejection of part of the European electorate is not surprising.***

The EU is, at this time, funding more than 156 million euros researches involving the handling of human embryonic stem cells.

***We hope, the next European Parliament will include MPs who demand that the new European Commission review this decision, to show that a new sensibility, open to the voice of European citizens, will be the one to prevail in the government of the European Union in the future.***

Madrid, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 - Spanish Family Forum denounces that the European Commission, in office following the recent elections, has adopted the agreement to despise more than a million European citizens who, through the initiative ' One of Us ', proposed that the European Union (EU) should cease to fund research involving the destruction of human embryos and the funding of abortions for third world countries. **At a time when there are echoes through the whole of Europe that it is not very democratic and is alien to the real concerns of the citizens of the European institutions, the rejection of the citizens' initiative that has been the most signed by European citizens is a sad demonstration of how the EU Government organisms are more concerned with satisfying economic and business lobbies than the demands of European citizens .**

The decision of the European Commission not to accept the 'One of Us' proposal, expressly recognises that the **EU is funding, at this moment in time, research valued at over 156 million euros, involving the handling of stem cells from human embryos, namely the very same research that more than one million European citizens signed against.**

For the president of Spanish Family Forum, Benigno Blanco, **“the rejection by the European Commission of the citizens' initiative 'One of Us,' alienates European institutions from feeling that they are citizens of the European Union, and manifests that at this moment in time, the European Union prefers to serve particular economic interests rather than the defense of human rights, such as the respect for the right to life of the human embryo. In a Europe for which the dignity of the human embryo is worth less than the economic interests of certain business lobbies, it is not surprising that part of the European electorate either rejects or abstains from voting in European elections or votes for parties that challenge the current structure of the Union”**

"The salient European Commission, continues Benigno Blanco, has advanced with strange rapidity regarding speaking out against the people of Europe who have raised a democratic voice in defence of life . **We hope, the next European Parliament will contain MPs that demand that the new European Commission, which will be formed shortly, review this decision, showing that sensitivity to the voice of European citizens will prevail in the government of the European Union in the future. "**

**" If the EU bureaucracy, with decisions like this one, continues to separate itself from the voice expressed by European citizens, and the European Union continues to move further away from the best ethical tradition of commitment to human rights in Europe, the future of the EU itself will be at stake,"** said the president of Spanish Family Forum .