



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Head of Delegation

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Subject: Information regarding public statements of Dr. Zoran Stankovic, Minister
Ref.: Your e-mail message of 19 September 2011 to the Head of EU Delegation

Dear Mr. Petrovic,

During a meeting I had with the Minister of Health, Prof. Zoran Stankovic in July this year, the Minister informed on developments regarding amendment of legislation and activities undertaken since he had taken office.

The draft amendments to the Health Care Law and the Law on Health Insurance were prepared to be presented to Parliament on 19 July 2011 for adoption. They included a large number of points. Many of them envisaged improvements to patient rights, widening the scope of health care for the most vulnerable. This included those suffering from rare diseases, establishment of a Directorate for screening programmes, harmonization of regulations in health care with those of the World Health Organisation in patient rights, the Universal Declaration on bioethics and human rights (UNESCO), the Council of Europe Charter on human rights and biomedicine, the EU Patient Rights Charter and other relevant documents.

Due to the fact that the EU invested almost 5 million Euros in the reform of financing primary health care, as requested by Serbia, the Minister also explained that the amendments look into the improvement of the chosen physician system by means of capitation. Establishing the obligations of those insured by the health insurance to select their physician, so as to allow for a comprehensive undertaking of screening and other preventive health care programmes was seen as one of the goals of the Ministry until the end of 2011.

The Minister said that all relevant bodies were consulted in this task, including the Serbian Medical Chamber.

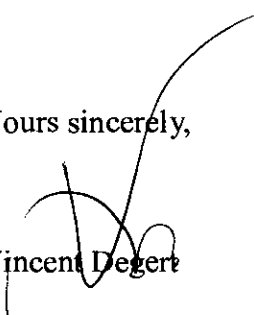
It is also important to note that the EU Delegation does not receive the draft Law amendments for approval as this is a task of the Serbian Government and Parliament. However, the EU supports

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the development of the health sector, notably with the project which was aimed at assisting the authorities in the implementation of capitation payment in primary health care, which precisely plans to pay doctors based on their performance, moving on from the salary-based system currently in place, as was the case of a number of EU member states.

I encourage you to engage in more discussion with the Serbian Ministry of Health when raising your concerns about issues in the health care system and ways of improving its functionality and quality of care for the citizens of Serbia.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Degert