

EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Head of Delegation

23.02.2012

Belgrade,
VD D(2012) 01478

Mr. Miroslav Petrović
Chairman of the Association 'Right to Health'
www.pravonazdravlje.com
pravo.zdravlje@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Petrovic,

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2012 related to a tender for equipment for cervical cancer screening, initially tendered under the reference: "*EuropeAid/129567/C/SUP/RS Supply of equipment for the Implementation of the National screening programme for colorectal, cervical and breast cancer - 09SER01/05/21 - LOT 4 (Cyto-pathology laboratory equipment)*" This tender was re-launched under the reference "09SER01/05/22" but all technically compliant tenders exceeded the budget allocated to this purpose. For this reason, we launched a "Competitive Negotiated Procedure" with all technically compliant bidders. Under this procedure the cheapest compliant offer is selected. As this procedure is still ongoing we cannot disclose further information until the contract is awarded.

You state that the "Assessment of International Assistance in the Serbian Health Sector" submitted to the EU Delegation in April 2010, was kept secret for two years. This is a study performed by three experts employed by the consultancy company "Ecorys" commissioned by us and used as a tool to improve project impact in the future. The report was presented in a forum of 50 health care and other professionals from a number of involved health care institutions and was shared in August 2010 with an interested NGO (Doctors against Corruption). The Ministry of Health posted the report, in Serbian, at its website during 2011. This report does not contain any controversial information other than constructive recommendations and lessons learned for projects in international donor assistance.


Furthermore, the page on which you quote the word "disaster" is mentioned as a qualifying characteristic of the project on a CARDS 2004 project titled Development of Health Information System for Basic Health and Pharmaceutical Services, I would like to invite you to read the whole paragraph of the report¹. The experts' comment provided is the reason why such expert assessments are invited by the EU, providing a critical view of the results achieved. We would also expect that the national authorities be capable of sustaining the results of the project, which

¹ The relevant comment on Page 38 of the report states: "This project was almost a disaster and it is testimony to the professionalism of the team that worked in Phase 2 that it produced any results at all. The conclusions of the final report are realistic in pointing to the need to produce a practical migration plan to move in a measured way towards full functionality following the managed introduction of new IT hardware and integrated software at both HS and hospital level. The successor project appears to be capable of success."

is why we have now contracted the UNOPS and WHO to build on the deliverables of the Electronic Health Record and integrate the hospital and primary health care application software into this basic framework.

Finally, let me inform you that the EU Delegation were not involved in the management of the donor funds provided by bilateral donors, regardless of the fact that some may have come from EU Member States. Therefore, please address your claim to the relevant EU Member State embassy or the Donor coordination units of the Serbian EU Integration Office and the Ministry of Health.

Should you be aware of any irregularities or fraud concerning EU funds, we would like you to submit evidence of these directly to the European Anti-fraud office (OLAF).



Vincent DEGERT