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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS**

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Des syndicats de praticiens malmenés

L'Association médicale mondiale monte au front

L'Association médicale mondiale (AMM) exprime son inquiétude au sujet des « *attaques* » récentes de plusieurs gouvernements visant à limiter l'auto-gouvernance des médecins ou de leurs représentants syndicaux. Elle part notamment en guerre contre la Turquie qui entrave les prérogatives de l'Association médicale nationale. Un décret adopté en novembre la prive en effet de plusieurs de ses fonctions, dont « *la promotion de la profession médicale en adéquation avec le bien-être et les intérêts de la collectivité et des individus* ». Selon l'association médicale turque, « *le fait de publier un décret ayant force de loi, de manière non constitutionnelle, sans tenir compte de l'autorité du corps législatif, est préoccupant quant à la tendance totalitaire du gouvernement* ». Un « bureau » des professions médicales, fraîchement créé au sein du ministère de la santé, s'est parallèlement attribué de nombreux pouvoirs jusqu'alors détenus par l'association médicale, dont celui de donner son avis sur le cursus universitaire et la formation médicale ou l'embauche et les questions éthiques. Ce bureau enquête sur les violations de la déontologie et applique des sanctions disciplinaires.

D'autres pays sont concernés. En Slovaquie, l'AMM dénonce les tentatives du gouvernement visant à neutraliser complètement le syndicat des médecins. En Pologne, une loi établit la responsabilité financière directe des médecins en cas de déficits de la Sécurité sociale. Le président du conseil de l'AMM, le Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, souligne que « *les gouvernements qui tentent de mettre à mal la liberté des instances d'auto-gouvernance des médecins risquent de nuire à l'accès aux soins des patients* ». Le secrétaire général, le Dr Otmar Kloiber, précise que l'AMM discute avec l'association médicale turque afin de la soutenir dans son combat.

› C.G.



WMA defends Physicians' Self-Governance against Government Attacks

(17.01.2012) Concern over the way governments around the world are seeking to interfere with physicians' self governing bodies has been expressed by the World Medical Association.

Among the attempts it cites are moves by the Slovakian Government to disempower the country's physician trade union and a new Polish law holding physicians financially liable for the administrative deficits of the Polish Health Care administration. Now the WMA has raised strong objections to what it sees as the most serious example, the Turkish Government's attempt to dismantle basic functions and roles of the Turkish Medical Association.

In a letter to its member national medical associations entitled 'Attacks on Physician Self-Governance in Turkey', the WMA's Secretary General Dr. Otmar Kloiber said the Turkish Medical Association had sought the help of the WMA in resisting the Turkish Government's takeover of its functions.

In a letter to the WMA, the Turkish Medical Association said that under a Turkish Government decree adopted in November the medical association had been stripped of many of its functions, in particular the provision to ensure that the medical profession was practiced and promoted in line with public and individual wellbeing and benefit.

The decree also created a new Health Professions Board, to which the Ministry of Health was empowered to appoint the overwhelming majority of members. This Board had been given many of the powers that used to be exercised by the medical association, including giving opinion on the curricula of education and training in health, employment and ethical issues, investigating alleged ethical violations by physicians and applying disciplinary sanctions.

In addition, the Polish Ministry of Health now had the authority to interfere in the academic autonomy and scientific freedom in higher education and on issues of accreditation.

The Turkish Medical Association's letter added: 'The act of unconstitutionally issuing a decree in force of law in disregard of the authority of the legislative body gives rise to concerns about the totalitarian tendency of the ruling Government not compatible with any understanding of democracy.'

'Amendments in constituting laws of the Turkish Medical Association and other professional organisations as well as new arrangements regarding higher education institutions in the field of health and medicine aim at intimidating and eliminating the pressure group functions of professional organisations and academics who are not in line with existing Government policies'.

Dr. Mukesh Haikerwal, Chair of the WMA, said: 'Governments that seek to undermine the freedom of physicians' self-governing bodies risk eroding patients' access to care based on clinical need. And by imposing more state control they limit independent clinical decision making and introduce less self determination driven by patient need.'

Dr. Kloiber said the WMA was now discussing with the Turkish Medical Association how best to support it in its fight to maintain its independence and role in regulating the profession.

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Doctors' unions abused

The World Medical Association up to the front

The World Medical Association (WMA) has expressed concern about the recent "attacks" of several governments to limit self-governance of doctors or their union representatives. It starts war especially against Turkey, which hinders the prerogatives of the National Medical Association. A decree adopted in November, in fact, deprives many of its features, including *"the promotion of the medical profession in line with the welfare and interests of the community and individuals."* According to the Turkish Medical Association, *"the act to issue a decree having force of law, but not constitutional, regardless of the legislative authority, is concerned about the tendency of totalitarian government."* An "office" of the medical professions, newly established within the Ministry of Health, has granted itself at the same time many powers previously held by the medical association, including the right to advise on the university curriculum and medical education or hiring and ethical issues. This office investigates violations of ethics and applies disciplinary sanctions.

Other countries are concerned. In Slovakia, the WMA condemned the government's attempts to completely neutralize the union of doctors. In Poland, a law establishes a direct financial responsibility of physicians in the event of deficits in Social Security. The chairman of the WMA, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, said, *"governments that attempt to undermine the freedom of self-governance bodies of doctors may impede access to patient care."* The Secretary-General, Dr Otmar Kloiber, points out that WMA talks with the Turkish Medical Association to support it in its struggle.