

*Dr Enrico Reginato, President*

Brussels June 17th 2013

Dear sirs

On June 13rd 2013 Mr. Izzet Taşçı, the Chief Inspector of the Health Ministry sent a notice to Istanbul Medical Chamber notifying of an inquiry/investigation into the "voluntary health centres" and requesting the immediate delivery of the lists of those who serve, and of the patients who are treated, in the centres.

Istanbul Medical Chamber is a very respected member of FEMS and we want to express our solidarity to our colleagues.

The first engagement requested to doctors at the beginning of their profession is to make the Hippocrates oath, that, among other prescriptions says:

*"What I may see or hear in the course of the treatment or even outside of the treatment in regard to the life of men, which on no account one must spread abroad, I will keep to myself holding such things shameful to be spoken about."*

Hippocrates was born in Kos, that is in front of the Turkish coast, his statements come from there, spread all over the world and are still deeply respected, but, as far as we can see, they don't cross the few miles that separate Kos from Turkey.

These European Medical Organizations are very surprised that a modern Country like Turkey, that aims to enter the European Union, behaves in such a way against the freedom of doctors to cure those who are in need, unrespective of their status, ideas, origin, and against the right of people to be cured in emergency conditions like physical wounds.

We strongly support the position of the Istanbul Medical Chamber that, with very high pride and courage, respect the medical deontology and gives unconditioned solidarity to the doctors who risk to be persecuted, for just performing their duty.

We hope it is a wrong decision taken by an officer in a particularly tense period, and we appeal to you to cancel this request, as it is, for a democratic Country, a shameful decision that would remain in the memory of all the European doctors.

Enrico Reginato  
FEMS President

