Report on the health care situation in the Czech Republic

(May – September 2014)

My report about this short holiday-filled period of time, will be relatively brief.

The new government communicates quite vividly with us and is "intensively" working on fundamental issues like principal change in postgraduate education and the law on non-profit hospitals. However, from our perspective the pace of changes is slow.

Now, we are about to start negotiations on physicians' basic salary increase, but our concepts differ from each other. Ministers’ proposal is about 4% increase. Our vision starts above 10% increase. We also require an increase in the following year to fulfil the agreement from 2011 after the „Thank you, we are leaving“ campaign - 1.5-3 times of the country's average wage for physicians. Otherwise, it will not be possible to stop the huge exodus of hospital doctors abroad which is about 500 people a year. This fact makes it impossible to fulfil the European directive on working time. With this limited number of hours it is practically impossible to ensure the continuous hospital care. Despite our reminders the Ministry did not introduce any amendments needed to approach the fulfilment of the abovementioned Directive yet.

The good news is that the current government is not (at least not publicly) preparing the Privatization of Public Hospitals as the previous governments wanted to.

About further development I will keep you informed.

Prague, September 30, 2014

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