

## **Announcement**

### **Serbian Minister of Health claims at the National Parliament that he can not cope with health corruption**

On July 19, 2011, the Committee on Health and the Family of the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia (RS) held its 49. sitting on corruption in health. It was initiated by our NGO's (Doctors against corruption) request to the Ministers of Justice and Health, as well as the director of the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) that the most serious affairs in health sector have to be eventually processed.

<http://www.healthcareanticorruption.org/saopstenja/OTV.%20PISMO%2028.Jun%202011.pdf>

Both Minister of Health and Director of ACA initially claimed to have limited competencies in fighting corruption but, upon our insistence, they eventually declared that all problematic cases have been sent to the Prosecutor's Office and the police. Over several previous months, they never answered our memos related to those issues. It is apparent that the Minister keeps his associates responsible for those affairs at their position .

Since MoH kept refusing to release the Ecorys Group report, that was prepared on EC request, we officially submitted a copy of the report to the Chairman of the Committee on Health and the Family, in order to be translated and offered for the public perusal. Thus, we wish our public to be objectively informed on responsibilities of the MoH officials for misuse and failures of EU financed projects amounting to 140 million euros.

In the further discussion, a representative of the parliamentary majority declared that the political will for changing the corruptive laws was missing. Minister of Health confirmed that the timing for radical changes was not appropriate, since elections are expected relatively soon. He also claimed that he could not cope with health corruption.

It clearly comes out that institutions of the system, notably MoH and ACA, have neither energy nor willingness to fight efficiently health corruption. We thus consider it is necessary that EC insists again that the RS Government provides concrete results in its fight against systemic corruption in the health sector.

July 25, 2011

Professor Dragana Jovanovic  
dr Drasko Karadjinovic  
coordinators