

**БЪЛГАРСКИ
ЛЕКАРСКИ СЪЮЗ**

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TO: Prime Minister
RNDr. Petr Nečas
Government of the Czech Republic
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CZ-118 01 Prague 1

Sofia, 20th January 2011

Dear Prime Minister,
Dear RNDr. Petr Nečas,

The Bulgarian Medical Association has recently heard about the difficulties the Czech Healthcare faces and especially about the working conditions of the doctors in the Czech Republic.

We are deeply concerned by the fact that our Czech colleagues could achieve reasonable living standard only by constantly working overtime, although the European Working Time Directive has been transposed into the national law. Clearly, overworking puts in grave jeopardy the quality of the medical care provided and the patient safety.

The doctors in Bulgaria experience similar problems. However, since recently the authorities started to heed their demands, some positive results began to come. We think that this sets a good example and appeal to the Czech authorities to follow it.

We support our colleagues in the Czech Republic in their struggle for respectable professional and working conditions.

We also support the Czech Medical Chamber which as an independent self-governing professional body like ours, guarantees the quality of medical care and the doctors' autonomy in their independent decision taking about the best way to treat the patients.

We are looking forward to hearing about appropriate actions of the Czech government which will improve the working conditions for the medical profession in your country and bring them up to the standard required by law without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Cvetan Raychinov,
President of Board
Bulgarian Medical Association