

ESTIA
Greek Medical Corps Association
Patision 4
Postal code 10677
Athens

Mr Guy Ryder
General Director of ILO
Route des Morillons 4
1202, Geneva
Switzerland

Athens, 23 May 2019

Subject : ILO's Direct Request (CEARC) against Greece adopted 2016, published 106th session in 2017 (Complaint of ESTIA for violation of Nr. 29 ILO's Treaty for forced labor)

Dear Sir,

The greek government, in its reponse to the complaint for violation of Nr. 29 Treaty regarding forced labour for the military officers doctors in Greece, sent you in November 2018 an extensive memorandum implementing its long-established strategy of recurring to chaotic documents, therefore misrepresenting and concealing facts, in order to continue from a position of power to show-off and perpetuate the exploiting regime at the expense of greek military doctors.

The truth is simple enough and therefore will be analyzed in a few paragraphs :

1. The compensation that the greek government states that a military doctor has to pay in the age of 35-40 (page 4 of the memorandum) is indeed 130000-150000 euros, but it's an abusive, extortionate and excessive sum comparing to his salary of 1000 to 1500 euros at the age of 35-40. Concurrently, the government does not correlate that with the cost of training (31195 euros) thus disguising the non proportionality. If we trace the compensation to the salary of a doctor in the age of 35-40 in Western Europe (about 8000 euros) and in the USA (about 13000 euros) we calculate compensations of about 1 million euros for western Europe and 1,5 million euros for the USA. The greek state seeks to mislead you, by stating only absolute numbers avoiding any reference to the proportional calculation of the sums of compensation.
2. The greek government refers to other groups of doctors under the guise of

comparing how they obtain their medical specialization. Any comparison here is also misleading. Military doctors don't share the same obligations and responsibilities neither with the academic doctors working in the universities nor with the doctors of the National Healthcare System, so the equalization of the groups aims at deceiving. In fact the military doctors have far greater responsibilities and stricter obligations.

3. The memorandum also refers to the right of military doctors to practice medicine outside the army. There is a great distance between right in theory and the ability to practice the right. Furthermore it is an insulting irony and sarcasm to present as a privilege the compulsion of military doctors to double their daily working hours in order to compensate with overworking in the private sector the debt they carry due to the compensation due. We also note that a military doctor in Greece does not get a salary of a doctor but a salary of a military officer. Concurrently, the question arising is : working far more than 8 hours per day is a violation of the labor law or not? **We think that the greek bureaucracy should be more attentive presenting before the ILO the violation of labor law as a special privilege of the military doctors.**
4. Despite the fact that the decision 115 of the European Committee of Social Rights in 2017 does not regard ILO, as ILO is a world institution of the highest status not influenced by politics, we are going to address the decision to contradict its disrespectful use by the bureaucracy. The first similar decision of the European Committee back in 2002 regards not the minimum of obligatory years of service (which restrains the military doctor) but the maximum of obligatory service which was 25 years until 2002 (thus designating that only after 25 years of service the state can't have any financial or other claim towards the military doctor).

The European Committee in 2002 demanded 15 years maximum of obligatory service, a common regime in most democratic societies. Greece passed the new law (Nr. 3257) in 2004 with which the demand for 15 years was kept hidden, that is to say there is not a maximum for the years of service, which implies that a military doctor can serve for infinite years. With the same law, which is the subject of our complaint, Greece presented to the European Committee a minimum of service of 17 years which is a lie - in fact the minimum of service is 21 years, that means that the military doctor is obliged to serve not at maximum 21 years, but at least 21 years (while if we add to the 21 years of obligatory service any extra years of obligation due because of extra training we end up even with 40 years of obligatory service).

The European Committee in 2017 forgot its own decision of 2002, did not examine the data in depth and stated that everything works out fine, therefore contradicting itself. An interesting point is the fact that member of the Committee is also France, where the french military doctors after obtaining a medical specialization can leave the army at the age of 36-38 years without any compensation, while in Greece there are military doctors 50 years old for whom the state after 32 years of service considers that they still have an obligation of service.

We could also present evidence how Greece misguides the candidates about to enter the Military Medicine Academy stating that the obligation of service is only 12 years, but we

think it's now quite clear how the greek bureaucracy deals with our case.

On the other hand, we are obliged to inform you that the President of ESTIA, a prominent internal physician, director of an internal medicine department in a naval hospital, a commander decorated many times with excellent qualifications, was not promoted to the next rang with no apparent cause. ESTIA will not comment further on this affair, because truth requires no analysis.

Hoping that we have boldly enlightened the case, we rest at the ILO's Committee disposal for any further clarification.

For ESTIA and its President,

Alexiou Athanasios

Vice-President of ESTIA

Occupational physician

Copies :

1. Mrs Rishikesh Deepa, ILO, route des Morillons 4, 1202, Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Mrs Rosinda Silva, ILO, route des Morillons 4, 1202, Geneva, Switzerland.
3. Mrs Achtzioglou Eftichia, Greek Minister of Labour, Stadiou 29, 10110, Athens.
4. Mrs Antonopoulou, Greek Ministry of Labour, Direction of International Affaires-Affaires with International Institutions, Stadiou 29, 10110, Athens.
5. Mrs Barhalami, General Confederation of Greek Workers, Patision 69 & Ainianos 2, 10434 Athens.