



# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif*

*International non-profit organisation*

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Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013

To **Abdullah Gül**  
*President of the Turkish Republic*

Dear President Gül,

We are writing to you with regard to the current social turmoil that has occurred in your country.

The UEMS represents the national associations of medical specialists of 35 European countries, including Turkey, with the aims of promoting patient safety and the quality of medical care through harmonised standards of specialist medical training and practice, thereby delivering safe, high quality health care throughout Europe.

The UEMS achieves these objectives through representation of the interests of medical specialists and of our patients at the European level, and through strong links and relations with European institutions: the Commission and the Parliament.

We wish to voice our concern regarding reports in the international media of the treatment of doctors who have provided assistance and care to casualties injured during recent demonstrations in Turkey. We were particularly concerned to learn that doctors have been held in custody for these reasons.

We strongly believe that it is an ethical and professional duty of doctors to treat all patients without discrimination on any ground such as *sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status*<sup>1</sup>. In this

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<sup>1</sup> Article 14 European Convention on Fundamental Rights

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regard, we urge the Government to respect the autonomy and independence of the medical profession, and encourage you to take all appropriate measures to ensure that doctors are free to fulfil their professional duties: providing care to patients, irrespective of their political opinion.

We trust that Turkey will resolve this internal turmoil through democratic and peaceful processes, thereby demonstrating its commitment to European values.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Romuald Krajewski  
*President*



Dr Edwin Borman  
*Secretary General*

