



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24
BE- 1040 BRUSSELS
www.uems.eu

T +32 2 649 51 64
F +32 2 640 37 30
info@uems.eu

Brussels, 24th November 2022

**To: The Turkish Authorities
The Ankara 3rd Criminal Court
Ankara Prosecutor General**

**Cc: Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Federal Cultural
Institution of Belgium
Honourable Minister Hadja Lahbib
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health of Belgium
Honourable Prime Minister and Minister Frank Vandenbroucke
Turkish Medical Association**

Re: Statement of Support for the immediate release of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), the voice of 41 national medical associations, across Europe and beyond, regarding the worrying case of our Turkish colleague, Prof Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA), in detention since 26 October 2022.

UEMS stands by the Turkish Medical Association, along with WMA, CMPE and the Turkish Human Rights Association (TİHV), condemning detention of the President of Turkish Medical Association and calling for her immediate release.

In the framework of the activities of the World Medical Association (WMA), Prof Şebnem Korur Fincancı participates to WMA's activities as an anti-torture expert and qualified physician with strong commitment to human rights and the ethical values of our profession.

Launching a criminal investigation against Prof Fincancı followed by detention simply because she called for an inquiry into allegations of banned weapons use violates openly the basic moral and professional duty of each physician, the freedom of expression and contravenes the Turkish authorities' duty to protect human rights in accordance with its international commitments. We therefore call for her immediate and unconditional release.



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24
BE- 1040 BRUSSELS

www.uems.eu

T +32 2 649 51 64
F +32 2 640 37 30

info@uems.eu

In addition to that, on 30 October 2022, the Ankara Prosecutor General's Office has initiated legal proceedings to dismiss the Council Members of the Turkish Medical Association, for their actions or statements in favour of "terrorist organisations". We would like to underline that TMA is a member of UEMS and other organizations of medical doctors. As the organisation representing the united voice of medical specialists in Europe, we, the UEMS, want to stress that it is imperative that Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı and the other medical specialists continue to perform their duties and services to their patients in line with the principles of medical ethics. We demand that doctors will not be punished for caring and speaking up for their patients.

Therefore, **UEMS stands by the Turkish Medical Association, along with WMA, CMPE and the Turkish Human Rights Association (TİHV), condemning detention of the President of Turkish Medical Association and calling for her immediate release.**

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Vassilios Papalois
UEMS President

Dr. Romuald Krajewski
UEMS Liaison Officer

Dr João Grenho
UEMS Secretary General