

To  
The Honourable  
Mr Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Health

Cc. Mr Demetrios Lintzeris, President of EOF  
Mrs Christina Papanikolaou, General Secretary of Public Health  
Mr Ioannis Eudokimides, Governor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> YPE  
Mr Thanos Plevris, Legal Advisor of the Minister of Health

Chalandri, February 27, 2014

**Re: Honoraria paid to the NHS Physicians**

Dear Minister,

We would hereby like to readdress the serious issue of the payment of honoraria to the NHS Physicians and the confusion that has emerged. More specifically:

- Article 11, par. 1 of Law 2889/2001 (Gov. Gazette 37/A/2001) provides for the NHS Physicians that their engagement in any form, in the private sector is a disciplinary offence and entails the immediate placement of the perpetrator in a state of suspension of duties and the referral of the liable person to the competent disciplinary board in order for his/her employment termination to be examined.
- The letter dated 2/10/2013 (attached) of the General Secretary of Public Health, Mrs Christina Papanikolaou, expressly states that the payment of honoraria to the NHS Physicians is permitted and EOF is requested to proceed with a **correct repetition** of the circular dated 1/9/2013 regarding the scientific events.
- By virtue of its letter dated 20/10/2013, EOF points out that the regime for the payment of the honoraria to the NHS physicians is an issue falling into the scope of competencies of the Ministry of Health and EOF cannot enter into its examination, and has no objection for its continuance.
- Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> YPE, with its letter dated 20/2/2014 to the pharmaceutical companies, informs that the Management Committee of ELKEA decided to increase the withholding percentage in favour of the latter for the payment of honoraria, from 5% to 15%.

Taking into account the above, as well as the fact that neither Law 2889/2001 nor EOF's circular for scientific events have been amended until this day, while in parallel it is clearly concluded both from the letter of Mrs Papanikolaou and from the document of the 2<sup>nd</sup> YPE, that the payment of honoraria to the NHS Physicians is possible, we kindly request that you clarify to us the manner in which pharmaceutical companies should respond in relation to the payment of honoraria to the NHS Physicians.

Yours sincerely,

Konstantinos M. Frouzis  
President

Yiannis Chryssospathis  
Legal Advisor