

Press Release

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Bulgarian nurses and doctor: the light at the end of the tunnel

Strasbourg, 24.07.2007 - "The Bulgarian medics can now see the light at the end of the tunnel" said René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), following the transfer of the Bulgarian medics to their home country. He praised diplomatic efforts taken by his European colleagues.

"While being relieved by this transfer and the fact that the medics' trauma is now over, I am still deeply concerned by the situation in Libya which led to a humanitarian tragedy and the deprivation of the liberty of the innocent medics for 8 years. The Libyan authorities must now tackle as a matter of urgency the problem of their derelict health system" he said.

Infirmières et médecin bulgares : le bout du tunnel

Strasbourg, 24.07.2007 – « Le personnel médical bulgare voit enfin le bout du tunnel », a déclaré René van der Linden, Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe (APCE), à la suite du rapatriement des infirmières et du médecin en Bulgarie. Il a rendu hommage aux initiatives diplomatiques de ses collègues européens.

« Je suis bien entendu soulagé que les infirmières et le médecin soient rapatriés et que leur calvaire prenne fin, mais je reste très préoccupé par la situation en Libye, qui a conduit à une tragédie humaine et à la détention d'innocents pendant huit ans. Les autorités libyennes doivent maintenant remédier de toute urgence à la situation déplorable de leur système de santé », a affirmé M. van der Linden.

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).