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Committee on Petitions
The Chairman

Brussels,
NP/cvdc [IPOL-COM-PETI D (2014) 17455]

307197 14.04.2014

Mr. Sokrates Hasikos
Minister of Interior
Ministry of the Interior
1453 Nicosia
CYPRUS

Ref: Petition 2888/2013 by Ms. Evdokia Loizou on violation of her rights as an employed person in Cyprus and serious illness resulting from it

Dear Minister,

The coordinators of the Committee on Petitions authorised me in their meeting of March 19th, 2014 to address this letter to you as one of the relevant Cypriot Ministers with regard to the aforementioned petition.

The petitioner, Ms. Loizou, is a Cypriot journalist who worked for the Cypriot Broadcasting Company (RIK). She claims that her employer did not ensure safety and health in the working environment, thus violating relevant European legislation, which resulted in her becoming ill with a serious disease (viral encephalitis) in April 2007. Her condition was recognised as occupational disease from the Cypriot Ministry of Labour. She has received costly medical treatment in several countries and is financially exhausted. Her condition nevertheless is not stable, in fact it is rapidly deteriorating, to the point that she is currently experiencing difficulty in eating and breathing; she cannot work anymore and needs to continue her treatment, which she has interrupted for financial reasons, as she has born all medical costs so far and has not received neither the amount of the compulsory employers' insurance, nor her salaries since 2007. She has filed a lawsuit against RIK, which is currently pending before Cypriot courts, claiming the aforementioned amounts.

The petitioner has asked the Committee on Petitions to assist her in her efforts in recovering the amounts she is entitled to by statute, as the aforementioned legal proceedings will take considerable time until concluded, something that is of the essence in her particular case.

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I am thus compelled by humanitarian motives to urge you to take timely action to ensure that the petitioner is able to continue her medical treatment and that any irreversible damage to her health is averted. I am also extending the same request to the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance.

Yours sincerely,

Erminia Mazzoni
Chairman of the Committee on Petitions

Annexes:
Text of petition 2888/2013
Certificate by the Department of Labour Inspection