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To Professor Dr. Adnan Kasman
Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi Rektörü
Cumhuriyet Bulvarı No.144
Alsancak 35340 IZMIR
Turkey

Namur, July 1, 2017

Dear Sir,

This is a totally unsolicited letter I send you in support of Professor Cem TERZI born in Ankara in 1962. Professor TERZI is Professor of Surgery at the Dokuz Eylül University Medical Faculty, Izmir, Turkey. He is working in the Department of Surgery of the University Hospital, heading the Colorectal Surgery Unit.

I happened to cross his professional road more than a decade ago mainly in the frame of the European Society of Surgery (ESS), for which I have been the first founding General Secretary serving for a decade in this position.

In addition, Professor Terzi and I both served every year since 2010 as examiner for the European Board of Surgery Qualification exam of the European Union of Medical Specialists ((UEMS). The Turkish Medical Association being the formal representative of Turkey in the UEMS council.

Professor Cem TERZI is a very distinguished colleague and a shining example of both a clinical and academic leader enjoying respect, friendship and admiration all over Europe, but also in the Middle East and China.

He was elected President of the European Society of Surgery in 2011 and organised a landmark annual congress of the ESS in November 2012 in Istanbul. He was re-elected as the President of ESS on June 2014 and was co-president of the XIXth Annual Meeting of the European Society of Surgery which, thanks to his personal efforts and reputation, was held in May 2015 in Beijing, as a joined meeting with the Chinese College of Surgeons. He received in Beijing an honorary fellowship diploma from the Chinese College of Surgeons. This honour clearly demonstrates that Cem TERZI is a man of conviction concerned by the union of people from the Western and Eastern World. He is undoubtedly an inspiration, guide and beacon for your University, as he is for the European Society of Surgery..

As many of my European and American colleagues, I am profoundly shocked and saddened by his most recent plight : he was actually dismissed in late June 2017 from his clinical and academic positions from Dokuz Eylül University (Izmir), because he signed a peace petition. This is in total contradiction with freedom of speech and academic freedom essential to the mission of any academic tenure, that must be protected by ensuring that teachers can be fired only for causes such as gross professional incompetence or behaviour that evokes condemnation from the academic community itself. Therefore, I am begging the high authorities of the Turkish academic community to reconsider their decision in order to keep their community within the cores of great intellectual nations, and your University as a cradle of civilisation and a melting pot of cultures.

Sincerely yours,



Professeur Luc Michel