

## **Statement about Attempts to Legalise Devitalisation Therapy**

**The Czech Association of Patients attempted to persuade the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic to include a statutory provision to the Article 30 of Helsinki Declaration after the death of the inventor of the devitalisation method, M.D. Fortyn (Helsinki Declaration is incorporated within the Czech legal system). This would have been a way of utilizing the results of his work. The proposal included a legal statement stipulating that the physician caring for a patient considered to be untreatable by conventional therapies would be able to apply experimental methods that have not been properly tested and officially approved at the time if he was convinced that such a treatment was beneficial to the patient. It further stipulated that the patient's informed consent was required as well as proper health documentation enabling other bodies to evaluate the results.**

**This proposal has been evaluated by the Scientific Council of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic. It was not strongly opposed, on the contrary, it was stressed that any such procedure should be made „lege artis“. The only disputed issue in the method of devitalisation was the presence of dead tissue left inside the patient's body until it was absorbed. Clinical trials were performed to address this issue which confirmed the safety of this method as proposed by M.D. Fortyn.**

**The proposal was eventually prepared as a bill, however it was not passed. The representative of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, M.D. Březovský, pointed out that accepting such a law would be not necessary as the Article 30 of Helsinki Declaration can be legally applied according to the present Czech legislation. Thus the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic confirmed the legality of use of devitalisation within the existing legal system.**

**The Czech Association of Patients with their legalisation efforts tried not to protect devitalisation against illegality but against other factors which marginalise the method such as the lack of active support for the continuation of the research.**

**Ing. Josef Mrázek Csc.,  
Vice-president of the Czech Association of Patients, the person in charge of the devitalisation issue**