



Working conditions of posted workers – what about OSH?

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Case of Zehrudin Čosić

First information

In July 2016 we were asked for help from a social worker at the SOČA University Rehabilitation Institute. The matter concerns the patient Zehrudin Čosić. Mr. Čosić was in SOČA treatment in rehabilitation after a serious spinal injury, suffered in occupational accident at the construction site in Antwerp, Belgium.

What happened?

Mr. Čosić worked in Belgium as a construction worker for the Slovenian company Sova Tri - Radlje ob Dravi. An accident at work has occurred on 9th of March 2016. The roof of the building broke under Mr. Čosić and he fell around five meters in depth. He suffered severe spinal injuries, was seriously jeopardize his life.

After an injury he was taken to the hospital in Antwerp against Belgium. He's been hospitalised in Antwerpen hospital since the date of injury 9th of March 2016, until 30th of May 2016 when his condition was stable enough that he has been transported from Belgium to Slovenia. He was transported by ambulance to the University Medical Centre Ljubljana, and on 6th of June 2016, he was taken for treatment to SOČA rehabilitation center. Mr. Čosić is, as stated, a paraplegic after injury.

What's the social situation of Mr. Čosić?

First months, when Mr. Čosić was still at the treatment in Belgium and even later, he didn't get a wage compensation from the employer. We filed the case to the Labour inspectorate of Slovenia. In August 2016 we were able to publicly raise c.c.a. 3000 EUR for basic life needs. All the money was spent on architectural adaptation of the housing for the use of wheelchair, for the transport to the home care in BiH after September 2016 and for the transportation for control visit in Ljubljana in October 2016.

In September 2016 Mr. Čosić received a n invoice for the Belgium hospital services in the amount of € 2,950. We immediately asked the Health institute of Slovenia if there is a possibility of direct refund of that money from them. We filed all the accompanied documentation.

On 2nd of October 2016 we've received a formal answer from ZZZS, that a direct refund isn't possible.

What now?

To help Mr. Čosić, we turned to the competent social work center, which approved 450.00 euros of targeted assistance for the repayment of medical expenses, which Mr. Čosić has fully transferred to a Belgian hospital.

So, there is still to pay 2,500.00 € to Belgian hospital. This is a cost that Mr. Čosić alone can not repay and really needs financial assistance.

The plight of Mr. Čosić is multi-layered: medical, psychological and social. After a serious injury, which he sustained in an accident at the workplace, he's now a paraplegic, afflicting him severe pain and other problems, he's not able to work, he's partly in need of care and assistance in the performance of various basic activities. Currently he's still on sick leave and we expect him in 2017 on disability pension.

Mr. Čosić receives only a salary compensation measured from the minimum wage, and his wife has no income. Compensation is not received regularly, nor the statutory amount. Now we have succeeded in ensuring that compensation will be received directly through the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (HII).

Thank you