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Rome, 18th February 2011

Dr. Pedro Manonelles
Presidente de la Federación
Española de Medicina del Deporte

Via e-mail

Ref.: Sports Medicine Specialty abolition in Spain

Dear President, Dear Dr. Manonelles, Dear Pedro,

I acknowledge reception of the unforeseen news concerning the abolition of the specialty of Sports Medicine in Spain, further to a decision of the Ministry of Health.

As President of the International Federation of Sports Medicine and Honorary President of the European Federation of Sports Medicine, I am surprised and disappointed about this decision taken in an important country like Spain, since ever worldwide leader in Sport Medicine, resolution which goes in the opposite way with respect to the trend the European Union is assuming toward our specialty actually already active in 11 EU countries.

As you know, our community at International level is very active and in particular, strongly engaged at European level in reaching the recognition of the Sports Medicine as a full specialty in the European Union, goal which will be reached by the year 2012 at the end of a process started in 2005, thanks to the work done so far in cooperation with the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) which represents national associations of medical specialists in the European Union and its associated countries.

At International level Sports Medicine has grown dramatically in the last decades in reliability thanks to its efforts in disseminating the principles of motivation, performance, and the health aspects of all people engaged in sport and physical activity. Sport is also part of the creation or improvement of social relationships in leisure, competition, the enhancement of health maintenance, and in the prevention and treatment of different diseases, in the protection of the athletes' health, so that they may safely compete in sporting events, and to the fight against doping in sport.

FIMS as a Federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee is strongly supporting you, as President of the Federación Española de Medicina del Deporte, to bring to the Spanish Ministry of Health a firm request on our behalf to withdraw from this deplorable decision. All the International Sports Medicine community is close in this sad circumstance to the Spanish Sports Physicians.

I remain at your disposal and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Fabio Pigozzi, MD, FFIMS
FIMS President