



RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA
Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich

Janusz KOCHANOWSKI

RPO – 606966/X/09/MW/AB

00-090 Warszawa Tel. centr. 0-22 551 77 00
Al. Solidarności 77 Fax 0-22 827 64 53

Warsaw, November 27th, 2009

Dr Margaret Chan
Director-General
of World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr Chan,

In reaction to the worldwide spread of the virus Influenza A (H1N1) 2009, on 15 September 2009 the Commission has published *EU strategy on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009*, in which it is explicitly stated that vaccines form the most effective instrument to prevent the pandemic we are facing in Europe. This was followed by recommendation of 29 September 2009 in which the Commission, on the basis of a positive opinion from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) at the European Medicines Agency (EMA), advised all Member States to supply themselves with either *Focetria (Novartis)* or *Pandemrix (GlaxoSmithKline)*. Also World Health Organization of which you are a President, and Strategic Advisory Group of Experts, working under the auspices of WHO, issued a number of detailed recommendations (for instance in 7 July and 30 October 2009) concerning the principles of using as well as security profiles of vaccines against the flue. The clear aim of the actions taken by the Commission was to ensure the availability of recommended vaccines on national markets before the flu season. Many of the Member States have acted accordingly in order to prevent the spread of the virus and minimalise the risk of a pandemic.

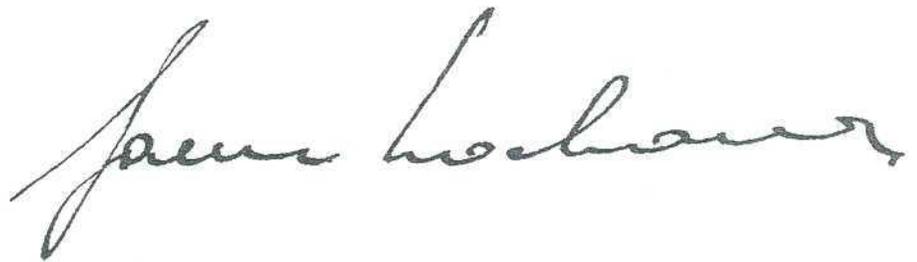
In consideration of the above I find the decision of the government of the Republic of Poland not to introduce the program of large-scale vaccinations of the

citizens of Poland to be very worrying. My doubts have been communicated to Ms Ewa Kopacz, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Poland on a number of occasions.

It seems that the lack of adoption of recommended preventive measures by Polish authorities may create potential risk for other Member States of the European Union. Therefore I will appreciate an information whether in your judgment part of the vaccines purchased on the EU level could be made available to Poland by those Member States in which these products are in surplus.

I am sending you a letter from English Division Student Government of Medical University of Lodz to illustrate the situation in Poland.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Lechner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text "With best regards,".