

Ceremonial speech by Sándor Mihály at the official contract signature between Eurotransplant and Hungarian Blood Transfusion Service

Ministry of Human Resources, 3rd of november, 2011



Let me start with a personal sentence. I started my work as national transplant coordinator at the first independent coordinator organization exactly ten years ago. Therefore this ceremonial event joined to the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Hungarian coordination office. Why I am saying that is the experience of coordination why we sought to have international organ exchange during this time period to fulfill the requirements of the transplant waiting lists,

especially for those patient groups who might have less possibility to have transplant than the others on the same waiting lists. And now, I have a feeling that we have just arrived to reach our aims or at least have hope for that.

Our former organization proposed to start negotiations with Eurotransplant in 2006, but that time we had no common agreement among all relevant parties to choose that way for improvement. But some years ago especially the Hungarian Transplant Society renewed the idea to exchange organs as a new Eurotransplant Member State.

Over the past 50 years organ transplantation has become an established worldwide practice, bringing immense benefits to hundreds of thousands of patients. The use of human organs for transplantation has steadily increased during the last two decades. Organ transplantation is now the most cost-effective treatment for end-stage renal failure, while for end-stage failure of organs such as the liver, lung and heart it is the only available treatment.

Every year organs are exchanged between Member States. The exchange of organs is an important way of increasing the number of organs available and ensuring a better match between donor and recipient and therefore improving the quality of the transplantation. This is particularly important for the optimum treatment of specific patients such as patients requiring urgent treatment, hypersensitised patients or paediatric patients. Available organs should be able to cross borders without unnecessary problems and delays.

Hungary expressed its interest for assesment to Eurotransplant while the DIRECTIVE fifty-three OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation was accepted. In this new legislative environment we and the new situation surely raised several issues during the negotiation phase that must be solved in the near future, but those topics were never against the agreement.

The first period of cooperation with Eurotransplant International Foundation addresses exactly the problems we face in Hungary on organ transplantation due to the size of population and organ donation activity.

I can tell you from an organ donor coordinator point of view, that Eurotransplant can increase the quality and justice in transplant, while we still have our national responsibility to increase number of organ donors, to reach at least the Eurotransplant average.

Finally I hope the first years of cooperation will prove to our decision makers, professionals and to the whole society that membership in this European community will have brought benefit to patients awaiting for organ transplant, and so for Hungary as well.