



**Fédération Européenne  
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### **National Report Slovak Republic**

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#### **Report on the Slovak Health Care Situation**

**(May 2013 - October 2013)**

On May 22-nd 2013 the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved a law criminalizing doctors and healthcare workers in Slovak Republic. It was done by the votes of the MPs of the ruling party SMER-SD- Social Democrats- which is member of PES in the European Parliament. This law was approved despite protests of all relevant organizations of health care workers in Slovakia and despite protests from almost all European medical organizations. The only change compared to the draft amendment was the change in the concept of the term good repute /good standing/.

On 25-th June 2013, the Slovak Parliament by votes of ruling MPs re-approved this law which was returned by the President of the Slovak republic to the Slovak Parliament for further discussion. The only change is that the period during which it can revoke the registration /licence/ in the chamber is 2 years and not 10. All other elements remain unchanged /see the legal analyses in Annex/. Among other things, withdrawal of registration will be executed without a trial, only upon a decision of the Ministry of Health- the Ministry of Health will be authorized to impose a fine resulting in a 2-year exclusion from health care profession without a court decision. It also implements amendments to the Criminal Code according to a crisis situationn which are very similar to military criminal offenses, even the more stringent due to the wide range of udefined procedure. This Act discriminates one section of the population against others on the basis of their proffession- 10 times the higher fine for healthcare professionals than that imposed on other people for do not fulfill working obligations. It is clear that the effect of this law remains the same- suppress any effective resistance of healthcare workers to defend their professional interests and rights by declaration /abusing/ of state of emergency or by a threat of it.

In November 2011 the institute of a state of emergency in Slovakia was abused to the power game and rejection of dialogue and negotiation. State of emergency was declared in time of peace, without the threat of an unforeseen disaster. Declaration of the State of Emergency in time of peace, without the presence of sudden and unforeseen event, as a means of quelling protests because of unwillingness of political solutions and refusal agreements and negotiations by the government is contrary to Article 1 of the ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour number 105 of 1957.

The only solution, as we see it, is the cancellation of this Law. All organizations of health care workers in Slovakia started with a petition against this Act /see the translation of the Petition in Annex/. They also start with the effort to submitting it to the Constitutional Court, but the institutional actors can do it only /at least 30 MPs or the President of the Slovak Republic or the Prosecutor General/. We also want to inform all European institutions and all European medical organizations about the situation.

We want to thanks to FEMS and its President Dr.Enrico Reginato for the support we have received, for letters have been sent to the Slovak officials, for informing the European Commission and all European Medical Organisations and also for personal support and involvement. We want to thanks to all of you for your help hitherto. We hope that we will be successful in defending against political arbitrariness and malevolence and revenge of interest financial groups. We continue in our effort to improve the healthcare system and working conditions of doctors. We will keep inform about the further development.