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Since 1996 FEMS (European Federation of Salaried Doctors) followed closely the difficulties of Croatian physicians in their attempts to negotiate with their Minister of Health. FEMS is particularly concerned about the deterioration of the material and moral situation of the Croatian medical profession.

The 20 delegations of FEMS gathering in their General Assembly in Porto 4th and 5th October carefully examined the critical and more and more difficult situation of Croatian doctors. During the past 10 years the Croatian Medical Union was forced to organize several strikes to defend their legal rights.

The remunerations offered to them do not correspond to their level of education or their social position. These remunerations, among the lowest in Europe, ignore their important responsibilities and do not allow them to have sufficient intellectual serenity to assume their tasks towards the patients.

Under these conditions, FEMS supports Croatian doctors' union in its legal claims and hopes that the Croatian health authorities restore the dialogue with the medical union (HLS) . They should continue their efforts to negotiate especially to establish a professional collective agreement with the Medical Union of physicians (HLS) in respect of the directives passed by the EU Parliament.

Dr E. REGINATO
FEMS President

