



Date:	14 March 2014	Document:	F14-006 EN
Title:	FEMS Activity Report 2013-2014		
Author:	Enrico Reginato		

FEMS Activity Report 2013-2014

FEMS has 27 member and 2 observer delegations, from which most are doctors' trade unions.

FEMS defends the legitimate material and moral interests of European salaried doctors , especially their working time and working conditions, their representativity and adequate remuneration.

FEMS joined the fight of Slovak Doctors against a law criminalizing health care workers by protesting to all competent Slovakian authorities and decision makers and by alerting the European Commission on the unacceptable law and its consequences.

FEMS supported Turkish Doctors in their action : "We Shall Not Report One Single Patient's or Colleague's Name to the Ministry of Health!" and expressed its indignation on the undemocratic manners

FEMS supported Croatian doctors in their request of negotiating their working conditions and salaries, after invalidation of the collective national working contracts october 2011 since the collective national working contract of doctors and healthworkers, were invalidated in 2011.

FEMS worries that in Romania only the "representative" trade unions have the right to sign a collective bargain/contract and, at the hospital level, to be representative, a trade union must have 50% of the employees. As doctors, in a hospital, represent 10-15% of employees, doctors' trade unions have no possibility to be representative at hospital level.

FEMS denounced that Italian law deprives doctors in public health services of their right to a limit on weekly working hours and to minimum daily rest periods. The European Commission launched an infringement procedure in May 2013. FEMS alerted on its failure and consequently the commission informed us on 21 February that Italy will be referred to the EU's Court of Justice for failing to apply correctly the Working Time Directive.

These and many other deplorable state of affairs in many European countries, induced FEMS General Assembly to take action to raise awareness of the situation and to call on politicians to subscribe to a couple of commitments, especially ahead of the European elections.

The following claims were elaborated:

Secure money to ensure quality healthcare for all European citizens!
Stop corruption!
Stop repression on doctors!
Decent salaries and decent working conditions for all European doctors!

FEMS calls on all health workers and stakeholders to join the **ACTION DAY of European Doctors on 15 May 2014.**

FEMS members will undertake national actions in hospitals and political strategic places. We consider also a demonstration in front of the European Institutions to raise awareness and alert the press.

FEMS is concerned that the economic crisis induced many member States to cut the public health expenditure, to reduce hospital beds, salaries, employment, access to technologies, which means saving public money, but increasing the costs for citizens and worsening the level of care.

FEMS reaffirms that the best way for saving money in health care is to assure high quality of care, which requires appropriate structures and organization, as well as good working conditions for the health workers.

FEMS advocates minimum European standard for structures, technologies and process to block this tendency. Patients safety and quality of care must not be compromised even in times of economical crisis.

FEMS proposed at the EMOs presidents' committee last year in Dublin a Joint Statement on Medical Standards in crisis, which became with the input of the other EMOs the **"Joint Statement of the EMOs on Patient Safety and Quality of Care in the Context of Economic Crisis"**, which has now been approved by all EMOs.

FEMS next meeting will take place 8-10 May 2014 in Gorizia a town on the Italian/ Slovenian border. The General Assembly will be preceded by a conference on "Doctors' Working Conditions in Europe".

Save also the date for the **50th Anniversary of FEMS**, which will be celebrated in Paris 8-10 October 2014.