

Brussels, April 4th 2016

Mr. Boyko Borisov, Premier  
1, Dondukov Blvd.  
1594 Sofia, R Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [primeminister@government.bg](mailto:primeminister@government.bg)*

National Assembly {Parliament}:  
2, Narodno Sabranie Sq.  
1202 Sofia, Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [infocenter@parliament.bg](mailto:infocenter@parliament.bg)*

Chairperson: Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva  
1, Knyaz Alexander I Sq.  
1169 Sofia, R Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [Ts.Tsacheva@parliament.bg](mailto:Ts.Tsacheva@parliament.bg)*

Mrs. Mava Manolova. Ombudsman  
22, George Washington Str.  
1202 Sofia, Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [priemna@ombudsman.bg](mailto:priemna@ombudsman.bg)*

Ministry of Health  
5, Sveta Nedelya Sq.  
1000 Sofia, Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [press@mh.government.bg](mailto:press@mh.government.bg)*

NHIF Supervisory Board  
NZOK  
1, Krichim Str.  
1407 Sofia, R Bulgaria  
*e-mail: [dbelicheva@nhif.bg](mailto:dbelicheva@nhif.bg)*

Dear Madams and Sirs,

The Bulgarian Medical Association, a respectful member of our federation, informs us that the Bulgarian Ministry of Health is implementing a reform of the national health system.

The reform aims to overcome *“unsolved problems that have been accumulating over the years”*.

We realize that the National Health Service of Bulgaria needs deep reforms: an independent European organisation, the Health Consumer Powerhouse, every year, published a report on the performance of the Health System of 35 European Countries.

The criteria of evaluation include: patients rights and information, accessibility, outcomes, range and reach of services provided, prevention and pharmaceuticals.

According to these reports, in 2015, the Bulgarian System holds the 31st position, with a score of 530 points out of 1000.

The position in itself may not have a strong meaning, but the score obtained is, nevertheless, quite significant: the Nederland, that occupies the first position, has a score of 916.

The Health Consumer Powerhouse estimates that Bulgaria should receive professional support to restructure its healthcare services.

While appreciating the project of improving your health service, we cannot but deplore the idea of excluding the fundamental contribution of the medical professionals, who are, obviously, the experts at the highest level with respect to the needs of people, the problems of organization, the knowledge of the outcomes.

The healthcare system is a system of protection of the citizens and their health depends on the quality of the system; this means not only the need of proper economical resources, but, to a greater extent, how the resources are allocated and used.

The expenditure for healthcare cannot be seen simply as a cost, but as a resource for a healthy population; furthermore, the working conditions of healthcare workers are fundamental to a properly working system.

Bulgaria is a Member State of European Union, it therefore observes the European rules that allow for the free cross-board movements of people, and in this particular case, of patients seeking for better healthcare abroad, costs that Bulgaria has to pay, according to the EU agreements.

But another important feature is the migration of health professionals looking for better working conditions. The EU Commission estimates that by 2020 there will be, in Europe, a lack of 13% of health professionals and we already assist to a consistent migration.

We know, from direct experience related to FEMS activity, that countries, attractive for the working conditions, instead of investing resources in the enlargement of the national education of doctors, prefer to get advantage from the resources spent in medical education by the EU member States who, due to bad working conditions, force their doctors to migrate.

It is therefore obvious that the interest of a modern country is to provide an adequate health care and the conditions for that imply a proper budget, a proper organization and proper working conditions for healthcare workers.

We point out that the request for an effective negotiation basis, that means to be involved in the reform of the health system, comes from the Bulgarian Medical Association, and not from isolated groups with particular needs or demands.

FEMS and all its members support and participate in the struggle of Bulgarian doctors in favor of a healthy life for Bulgarian people

Enrico Reginato



FEMS President

On behalf of:

**Austria**

Österreichische Ärztekammer / Austrian Medical Chamber  
Verband der Leitenden Krankenhausärzte Österreichs (VLKÖ)

**Belgium**

GBS-VBS Groupement des Unions professionnelles Belges de Médecins Spécialisés

**Croatia**

HLS - HRVATSKI LIJECNICKI SINDIKAT

**Cyprus**

Cyprus Turkish Medical Association

**Czech Republic**

LOK-SCL Lékařský Odborový Klub-Svaz Ceských Lékařů

**France**

UNMS-Union Nationale des Médecins Salariés  
SNPHAR-E Syndicat National des Praticiens Hospitaliers Anesthésistes-Réanimateurs  
SIP-SPH La Société de l'Information Psychiatrique  
FPS La Fédération des Praticiens de Santé  
SMARNU Syndicat des Médecins Anesthésistes Réanimateurs Non-Universitaires.

**Hungary**

MOSZ (Magyar Orvosok Szövetsége) Hungarian Doctors' Trade Union

**Italy**

ANAAO-ASSOMED  
AAROI - EMAC  
ANPO - Associazione Nazionale Primari Ospedalieri  
SNR Sindacato Nazionale Area Radiologica

**Netherlands**

LAD-Landelijke Vereniging van Artsen in Dienstverband (Dutch Association of Salaried Doctors)

**Poland**

OZZL-Ogólnopolski Związek Zawodowy Lekarzy

**Portugal**

FNAM Federação Nacional dos Médicos Zona Centro  
FNAM Federação Nacional dos Médicos Zona Sul  
FNAM Federação Nacional dos Médicos Zona Norte  
SIM -Sindicato Independente dos Médicos  
ORDEM DOS MÉDICOS

**Romania**

RFCPTU-CFSMR Romanian Federative Chamber of Physicians Trade Union

**Slovakia**

LOZ/LUP-Lekarske Odborove Zdruzenie

**Slovenia**

FIDES - Sindikat Zdravnikov in Zobozdravnikov Slovenie

**Spain**

CESM-CONFEDERACION ESTATAL DE SINDICATOS MEDICOS

**Turkey**

Turkish Medical Union / Istanbul Medical Chamber