

*Dr Enrico Reginato, President*

Brussels, June 6th 2016

Dr Petros Agathangelou  
President of the Cyprus  
Medical Association

Dr. Astasia Symeou  
Secretary of the Cyprus  
Medical Association  
President of the Cyprus  
Medical Association

and copy to  
Dr Jacques De Haller  
Presidente CPME

Dr Romuald Krajevsky  
President UEMS

Dear Presidents, dear Colleagues,

I agree with you that politics cannot be an obstacle for the medical profession and patients, and, considering this, I take the opportunity to try to solve what seems to be, up to now, a dialogue among the deaf.

To start with, I recall that already years ago, meeting Cyprus representatives in common meetings with EMOs, I proposed them to become delegates to FEMS, but it seemed to raise no interest and we never had any request or proposal.

It happened much before the colleagues of Cyprus Turkish Medical Association applied for membership, attended the first two years as observers and, with a vote of the General Assembly, at large majority, were accepted as members of FEMS.

Therefore, this gives me the case of appreciating, in some way, the fact that FEMS is taken into consideration by your Association and you give me the opportunity of clear the field.

FEMS is a federation of trade unions, not a federation of Nations; all the EMOs, but FEMS, have a single delegation for each member State; FEMS members, as you can see from our website



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([www.fems.net](http://www.fems.net)) come from many, not all, EU Countries; it is sometimes the case that for one country we have several trade unions, that are different in their statutes, each of them defending various professional and working interests within the same Nation.

We represent about 120.000 declared members.

Membership to FEMS implies that the applying organization has a statute that fits FEMS mission and the Country where they operate is not necessarily a EU member State. For instance, the Croatian delegation has been long member of FEMS before Croatia's EU accession.

As FEMS is a bearer of a wide culture in the doctors' working rights and working conditions, all FEMS delegates can learn much information and be helped in developing models of healthcare or organizing their form of protest to improve their working conditions. This is the mission of a Trade Union, unrespective of the political status of their public employer.

I think, now, it is clear that FEMS supports its members, whatever the political situation, because, as you recognize, politics, in our opinion, cannot be an obstacle for defending our members' rights.

It does not mean that we approve, support or condemn one national policy or the other.

About the political situation in Cyprus you provide me the story of the long conflict. I have some idea on what has been happening in the last decades and I trust it is not FEMS' job to take position in favor or against any political status or decision. FEMS is just on the side of doctors and on the side of patients, often, or rather always, against some decisions of any employer, be it a Government, legal or not, or private employers, that goes against the interest of our members.

We do it with data collection, information, education, press conferences, meetings with counterparts, all possible means to prove our ideas and proposals.

Our colleagues living in what you define as an illegal State, illegally occupied cities, illegal properties, are, our Statutes say, *"at least in a significantly high proportion, placed under the administrative authority of a public or private employer and working full-time or part-time"*.

In your opinion, the doctors of CTMA, due to the political situation, shouldn't count on the support of FEMS.

Well, it is not FEMS' opinion.

We think that, even more than other colleagues, they work in a situation that yourself define being precarious, and they need the support and connection with their colleagues of Europe. We don't see any reason why they should remain insulated from the rest of the world.

As I often did in the past, I renew the invitation to your Association to join FEMS. The membership will be useful to you because, beyond the very important activity of CPME and UEMS, we deal with different matters that can be complementary to theirs.



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You will be welcome, and be able to express all your ideas, including your criticism to the FEMS activity.

But I don't think that your critics from outside FEMS can influence our activity, like I explained to your delegates in the meeting of CPME in Reykjavik, in presence of, and with the approval of the President Mrs Katherine Fjeldsted.

As you conclude your document informing me that you will proceed with raising the whole issue to the other EMOs, I feel the need to answer you and to communicate to my colleagues Presidents of the Organization you are member of, about your discomfort and my renewal to them, if even necessary, of the FEMS mission.

In case you insist with your position, in spite of my explanation, I am ready to take up any further discussion inside the EMOs.

Your sincerely

Enrico Reginato