



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS**

Robert Fico  
Prime Minister  
Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky  
Námestie slobody 1  
813 70 Bratislava

Brussels, 11 May 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

The AEMH - European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians has been alerted on the recent proposed amendments of the Criminal Code and of the Law on Health Care Workers in Slovakia.

The AEMH is deeply concerned as these amendments criminalize doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers and are an attack against the autonomy of the medical profession.

We believe that the proposed changes to the Criminal Code and the law on healthcare workers would be contrary to Article 1 of the ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour Nr 105 of 1957. The AEMH condemns all attacks against international Conventions and calls for compliance with legal provisions of the Code of Professional Ethics.

As European organisation, the AEMH is committed to and guardian of European rights. Our concern is that the right to free movement, one of the four pillars of freedom of European citizens, would be compromised if the right to practice depends only on decisions of governmental authorities. The medical profession is an independent profession and is entitled to the right of self-regulation by its bodies and institutions.

In the framework of the European Medical Organisations Alliance, the AEMH will support its sister organizations and disseminate information on their respective related actions, especially those of FEMS, the European Federation of Salaried Doctors.

We hereby express our support to our Slovakian colleagues and their claim to perform their tasks in full respect of the integrity of doctors, which is one of the prerequisites to good quality healthcare and patients' safety.

We urge you not to support the proposed law changes in respect of international conventions and European democratic achievements.

Dr João de Deus  
AEMH-President