

Dear Sirs,

We have decided to address you on behalf of the Portuguese Medical, because according to our information there is an effort to criminalize health professionals in Criminal Code in Slovakia. We feel that it is only for their efforts to improve conditions for workers in the health sector, and for the overall effort to improve the situation in health sector in Slovakia. Besides a plethora of objections to the law, which has no parallel in democratic Europe, we are convinced that changes in the law no. 578/2004 Z. z. on health care providers, health workers and professional organizations in the health and amending certain laws, as amended, and on amendments to certain laws / printing. no. 371 / push the physicians almost to the level of professional soldiers and policemen but without the benefits these jobs naturally share.

The draft law does not respect the independence of the professional chambers of healthcare workers. It is not acceptable if the Ministry of Health could exclude health care professional from the medical profession for 10 year by imposition of fines for breach work duty without court proceedings only by its decision. Even under the current Slovak Criminal Code so far are penalties of disqualification from one to ten years.

Please note that the experience of the last period in Slovakia convinces us that the intention of the promoter for the adoption of this amendment is contrary to Article 1 of the ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour number 105 of 1957, under which forced labor not be used to enforce labor discipline. The reason for limiting the right to strike should be a crisis situation, not vice versa. Realization of the right to the free performance of the medical profession can not justify the declaration of emergency. Right to freedom of movement for workers, as one of the four pillars of the freedoms of European citizens would become illusory if it depended only on the authority of the government, when decides limiting the free movement of people.

From the above reason, we decided to inquire about the situation and inform all our members, European institutions, MEPs, because we believe that such laws have no place in modern Europe.

Therefore we urge you not to support proposed changes in the laws. If you have further questions please contact us. Thank you in advance for your reply.

With regards

José Manuel Silva
President of the Portuguese Medical Association