



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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Brussels, 16th May 2013

To: Mr Robert Fico
Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic
Úrad Vlady SR
Námestie slobody 1
813 70 Bratislava

Dear Sir,

The UEMS ("Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes") is the oldest and largest non-governmental organisation representing European doctors, with a mandate specifically on behalf of medical specialists. The UEMS is committed to the promotion of safe, high-quality medical care for patients through the achievement of high standards of medical training and continuing education for European medical specialists. The UEMS includes within its membership representatives from 35 European countries, including all EU/EEA member states, and 51 medical specialities.

Given its commitment to the quality and safety of patient care, the UEMS is deeply concerned by recent developments in Slovakia that have been drawn to our attention by the Slovak Medical Association and the Slovak Medical Chamber.

We are aware that legislation currently is under consideration that will seek to introduce severe sanctions against doctors and other healthcare professionals for a breach of their work duty. We are concerned that these sanctions could be imposed as an administrative decision, hence without due process. The principle of the autonomy of medical professionals is an important characteristic of civil society in European countries. Accordingly, this matter is a source of deep concern for the UEMS, as this legislation would be a clear challenge to the autonomy of the medical profession in Slovakia.

The UEMS calls on the Slovakian Government to engage with the representatives of the medical profession in Slovakia in order to find solutions to these valid concerns. We recognise that the

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Slovakian Government will have its own concerns regarding these issues. However, we are convinced that legal measures, such as have been proposed, are not a solution to any perceived or actual shortcomings of the healthcare system that cannot assure working conditions attractive enough to retain its staff. We are assured that the commitment of Slovakian doctors, to provide the best achievable quality of care for their patients, also extends to their willingness to work constructively to find a more appropriate solution to these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Romuald Krajewski
President



Dr Edwin Borman
Secretary General

