



Ivan GASPAROVIC
President of the Slovak Republic
Kancelária prezidenta Slovenskej republiky
Hodžovo nám. 1
P.O. Box 128
810 00 Bratislava 1
Slovak republic

Brussels, June 24th, 2013

Mr. President of the Republic of Slovakia,

The European Council of Medical Orders (ECMO) has been alerted by MD. Marian KOLLAR, President of the Slovak Medical Chamber, of the recent adoption by the National Council of the Slovak Republic of amendments to the Criminal Code and to the Law on Health Care Providers.

As European organisation defending the practice of high quality medicine and promoting the highest possible standards of ethical behaviour and care by physicians, the ECMO is deeply concerned about these changes that criminalize doctors and jeopardize the independence of the medical profession. The medical profession is indeed an independent profession and is entitled to the right of self-regulation by its bodies and institutions.

At the occasion of the last plenary meeting of the ECMO held in Bucharest on June 15th, 2013, its participating organisations unanimously decided to react and to express their full support to the action of the Slovak Medical Chamber.

The ECMO considers that it is a state obligation to provide laws and regulations that ensure that health and medical care are provided to all people without putting in danger the independence of the medical profession and reminds the Slovak Authorities the article 5 §1 of the Principles of European Medical Ethics adopted on January, 6th, 1987 which states that *"In order to advise and act, the doctor must have full professional freedom and the technical and moral conditions allowing him or her to act with complete independence"*.

Moreover, the World Medical Association, representing 102 national medical associations worldwide, reaffirms in its Madrid Declaration of October 1987 concerning professional autonomy and self-regulation the importance of professional autonomy as an essential component of high quality medical care and therefore a benefit to the patient that must be preserved. The World Medical Association therefore re-dedicating itself to maintaining and assuring the continuation of professional autonomy in the care of patients, which is an essential principle of medical ethics.

Considering all the above elements, the European Council of Medical Orders therefore urges you to take into consideration the international and European commitments and standards.

Dr. Roland KERZMANN,
President of the ECMO

CONSEIL EUROPEEN DES ORDRES DES MEDECINS-CEOM-EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL ORDERS
secretariat@ceom-ecmo.eu