



Adv. Leah Wapner
Secretary General
EFMA-WHO

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Dear Prime Minister,

The European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA) represents National Medical Associations throughout Europe, including the Slovak Medical Association. It is with great concern that we heard about the recent developments in the Slovak Health Care System, including unsuitable working conditions, unjust remuneration scales and the failure to observe the European Working Time Directive. Such developments have the potential to harm the quality of healthcare and patient safety in Slovakia.

It is also most regrettable that these prohibitive working conditions are leading Slovak doctors to seek employment in other countries, thus exacerbating the problems in your health system. We strongly support the free movement of medical professionals; however, forced movement due to financial needs and untoward working conditions is intolerable.

A further development which is of great concern is the recent decision to transform public hospitals into limited companies. This decision, combined with the lack of resources in your healthcare funding, will lead to a decrease in the access to healthcare services and negatively impact the health of your country's citizens.

We urge you to work to stop the gradual professional, moral and economic devastation in your health care system and to take immediate and real action by implementing national and European legislation on working time and to ensure that sufficient resources are available to adequately remunerate your medical professionals.

Yours Sincerely

Leah Wapner
Secretary General
EFMA-WHO