



His Excellency Mr Boyko Borisov
Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

Mr Kiril Ananiev
Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Bulgaria

Dr Daniela Daritkova
Chairman of the Healthcare Commission in the Bulgarian Parliament

Mr Sotir Tsatsarov
Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria

Brussels, 15 May 2019

European doctors on violence against health professionals

Your Excellency, dear Minister, dear Chairman, dear Chief Prosecutor,

Please allow us to contact you regarding a matter brought to our attention by our member the Bulgarian Medical Association, the БЪЛГАРСКИ ЛЕКАРСКИ СЪЮЗ.

We were very concerned to hear reports about the prevalence of violence against doctors and other healthcare professionals in Bulgaria. We were informed that, although there is legislation in place to take action against aggressors, its enforcement is not effective and many transgressions remain unsanctioned. As a result, there is not only the human cost on the side of the doctors, but also a systemic cost due to an increase in doctors leaving the health workforce.

As a matter of principle, CPME cannot tolerate a situation in which doctors and other health professionals face such danger in their daily practice. To safeguard patients' fundamental right to health, it is also necessary to protect the health professionals delivering the care. In return, doctors have the ethical obligation to treat every patient in accordance with their health needs and without any discrimination. While this principle of medical neutrality is most often challenged in conflict zones, cases of violence against health professionals show that it is also in danger in everyday healthcare. This is unacceptable.

We trust that you share our concern and call on you to take urgent action to improve the protection of health professionals in their daily practice. CPME supports the Bulgarian Medical Association in advocating for the better protection for doctors to that end. We will also seek opportunities to raise this issue at European level.



We hope that these combined efforts will contribute to a resolution of the problem and safeguard the future provision of healthcare in Bulgaria.

European doctors remain committed partners in working towards this objective.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
CPME President

Annabel Seebohm, LL.M.
CPME Secretary General