



Prof. Dr Milan Kujundžić  
Minister

Republic of Croatia  
Ministry of Health

Brussels, 10 April 2017

### **Open Letter on legal framework of medical specialist training in Croatia**

Dear Minister,

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe, including the Hrvatska liječnička komora, the Croatian Medical Chamber.

It is through the Croatian Medical Chamber that we have been informed about the on-going changes to the legal framework for the training of medical specialists in Croatia.

We understand that the planned reforms will seek to contractually bind doctors in specialty training to the institutions in which the training is initiated. The option to seek work in other institutions, including in other EU Member States, will be subject to rigid and disproportionate - if not discriminatory - financial sanctions.

We fully support the Croatian Medical Chamber in its opposition to any laws which deter, or worse, sanction doctors in specialty training from enjoying their right of free movement. We believe this does not only infringe personal rights, including those granted by EU citizenship, in particular with regard to choice of occupation and right to remuneration, but also creates an environment which is contrary to European and international health workforce policy objectives, such as the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health. At the same time, we understand the issue of 'brain drain' and physician shortage and continuously highlight all countries' obligation to adhere to the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel and to work towards self-sufficiency.

In view thereof, we urge you to introduce positive incentives to ensure that healthcare systems provide lawful and safe conditions for doctors throughout their careers to sustainably safeguard the provision of high quality healthcare.

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We trust that in cooperation with the Croatian Medical Chamber and all other relevant stakeholders it will be possible to find a responsible solution. CPME remains a committed partner in working for high quality healthcare for every patient in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jacques de Haller  
CPME President

RA Annabel Seebohm, LL.M.  
CPME Secretary General

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