



# European Medical Students' Association

Association Européenne des Étudiants en Médecine

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To whom it may concern,

Due to warnings about the deterioration of the healthcare system in Croatia and, doctors' rights being violated repeatedly falling on deaf ears, with no concrete actions being taken by the Ministry of Health of Croatia, doctors were left with no other choice but to show their dissatisfaction via jointly organising a protest rally, occurring on 18 March 2023 in Zagreb. Doctors have been warning about unbearable and inadequately compensated workloads, poor working conditions, inefficient management of the healthcare system and a dramatic decline in primary healthcare, but to no avail.

These structural problems of the healthcare system are taking a toll on both patient as well as physician physical and mental wellbeing, resulting in doctors leaving the Croatian healthcare system, while at the same time patients' medical needs being left unmet, due to long waiting times resulting in late diagnosis of certain conditions, as well as the development of medical deserts.

The Executive Board of the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA), acknowledges and wholeheartedly supports the joint, coordinated efforts of the Croatian Medical Chamber (HLK), Croatian Doctor's Union (HLS), Croatian Association of Hospital Doctors (HUBOL), the KoHOM Association of Family Doctors/General Practitioners and the Initiative of Young Doctors of Croatia in demanding changes within the Croatian healthcare system to occur immediately, and also in restoring dignity to the profession and the furtherance of physicians' rights. We deem noteworthy to mention that their efforts are also supported by Croatian medical students, many of whom are also valuable members of EMSA.

We urge the Croatian health authorities to implement the necessary changes as proposed by Croatian doctor umbrella organisations without any further delay, to try and mitigate the consequences of an already far too delayed response.

Yours faithfully,

**Luka Delak**

EMSA Vice President of External Affairs 2022-23

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**EMSA. HEALTH. EUROPE. TOGETHER.**

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