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FEMS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR SLOVENIAN DOCTORS

FEMS reaffirms its unwavering support for doctors and medical organizations in Slovenia as they strive to uphold professional standards, safeguard clinical autonomy and ensure the sustainability of public healthcare. We firmly believe that key healthcare reforms cannot—and must not—be adopted without meaningful consultation with medical professionals and genuine social dialogue. Overlooking expert advice inevitably undermines the quality of care for patients and the working conditions of healthcare staff.

For more than eighteen months, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia has ignored doctors' strike demands, which clearly signal systemic flaws and the progressive deterioration of public healthcare. Rather than engage constructively, the authorities have chosen to curtail the right to strike. Simultaneously, the medical profession has been subjected to unwarranted defamation, eroding public trust in both healthcare professionals and the system at large. The staffing crisis in Slovenian public healthcare is deepening, and the imminent amendments to the Healthcare Services Act threaten to exacerbate these challenges.

FEMS urges Slovenia's decision-makers to depoliticize the healthcare agenda and to immediately involve medical professionals and their representative bodies as equal partners in crafting solutions. Only through transparent, inclusive dialogue can we secure a high-quality, accessible public healthcare system that serves patients, protects practitioners and upholds public confidence.

Dr Alessandra Spedicato

President