

The European Federation of Salaried Doctors (FEMS) has received a request to support FIDES in the matter of a strike due to breach of agreements with the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

Background:

Considering that after the 2 agreements (2022 and 2023) between FIDES and the Slovenian Government the stipulated deadlines were not fulfilled by the Government and doctors' union is effectively deprived of a right to bargain which is a fundamental right of any union in a democratic society.

Considering that, even after two decades, Slovenia has not made any significant effort to align the doctors' working time with the standards set forth by the European Working Time directive, in contrast the other EU states where 48-hour working week has become a norm.

FEMS states that

- The strike of the Slovenian doctors is a legitimate and a logical consequence of the proceedings by the Slovenian government, which does not respect the agreements and recommendations to reform its obviously defective salaries system.
- The Slovenian authorities should align its system of collective bargaining for doctors with more usual practices across Europe, including the right to bargain separately from other healthcare professionals.
- Is deeply concerned that the standards set forth by the European Working Time and the implementation of 48-hour working time are recognised as a threat to the Slovenian National Healthcare system. This is a clear signal for a thorough healthcare reform, including the implementation of an equitable salaries system.
- Fully supports the Slovenian doctors in strike and appeals to the Slovenian government to hold constructive talks with the union of doctors and dentists of Slovenia – FIDES, based on the signed agreements and makes FEMS representatives at disposal, including their physical presence in Slovenia if required by Fides.

Adopted by the FEMS Board,

12th February 2024

Dr João de Deus



FEMS President