

*The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.*

## **Statement on doctors' right to strike and physician substitution**

CPME notes that, having been informed of this development by the British Medical Association, CPME is concerned by recent government action seeking to limit doctors' right to strike. CPME is concerned that laws such as the UK's Strikes Act infringe on doctors' right to strike. We also share concerns regarding the increasing use of 'Physician Assistants'.

European doctors reaffirm that all doctors deserve decent and lawful working conditions. Where this is not achieved, doctors have the right to call for the restoration of such conditions. Regulations foresee that this can be implemented without unduly compromising patient safety.

CPME calls on all national governments to ensure doctors can exercise their social rights, including the right to strike as guaranteed under international law.

In addition to this, CPME expresses support for United Kingdom colleagues over their concern and opposition to the trend of physician substitution by 'Physician Assistants' and is concerned at the implications for patient safety with uncertain and potentially severe health implications.