

Joint Resolution of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians

in solidarity with the Hungarian Medical Chamber (MOK)

Adopted at the ZEVA-Symposium¹ on 5 September 2025

We, the undersigned representatives of the Chambers of Physicians of Central and Eastern Europe, express our profound concern over the increasing political interference in the work and independence of the **Hungarian Medical Chamber (MOK)**.

For over three decades, since its re-establishment in the early 1990s, the **Hungarian Medical Chamber (MOK)** has been an essential part of our regional collaboration and a strong advocate for professional self-governance, patient rights, and the rule of law.

The reintroduction of medical chambers across Central and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s was not only an institutional reform. It represented a **powerful expression of professional and national self-confidence** after decades of state control, and a return to long-standing traditions of ethical responsibility and professional autonomy.

At the same time, it was a **clear sign of reintegration into the European community of values** – affirming a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and the independence of the medical profession.

Through this renewal, the chambers also revived a **long-standing culture of regional cooperation and mutual support**, expressed in continued exchange through forums such as the **ZEVA Symposium**. This spirit of solidarity remains essential today.

We underline that **chambers of physicians are essential institutions within their national healthcare systems**. Their legitimacy and strength come from their responsibility to the public as much as to the profession. They speak not only for doctors but also **on behalf of patients**, working to uphold quality care, equitable access, and ethical practice. In times of crisis and reform, chambers often serve as **crucial sources of expertise and stability**, both nationally and across the region.

Concerning recent alarming developments:

- The **abolition of mandatory membership**, weakening the unity and representativeness of the profession;
- The **removal of ethical oversight** from the chamber to a politically controlled entity;
- **Public accusations and delegitimization** of the chamber by high-ranking government officials;
- Proposed laws enabling the **dissolution of organizations** under vague pretexts such as "foreign influence".

These actions constitute a systemic threat to the medical profession's autonomy and echo patterns observed in previous cases involving universities and civil society organizations in Hungary.

¹ Symposium of the Central and Eastern European Medical Chambers – ZEVA:
<https://www.medical-chambers.info/>

Reaffirming our common principles:

We recall the **Košice Memorandum** adopted at the 1994 ZEVA Symposium, which reasserted the following principles shared across Central and Eastern Europe:

1. **Self-governance of the medical profession** is a fundamental prerequisite for high-quality, ethical and patient-oriented healthcare.
2. **Independent and democratically legitimized chambers** are essential for representing the interests of physicians and patients alike.
3. Chambers play a key role in **setting ethical standards, ensuring continuing education, and supporting professional development**.
4. The **independence of physicians** from political or economic pressure must be protected to maintain public trust.
5. **International cooperation** among chambers is vital to defending and promoting these shared values.

The Hungarian Medical Chamber has embodied these principles for decades. It is not only a professional organization, but a public institution rooted in democratic legitimacy, competence, and service to the healthcare system.

Our appeal:

We call on the **Government of Hungary** to:

- Respect the **institutional independence** and democratic legitimacy of the Hungarian Medical Chamber;
- Cease **defamatory rhetoric** and delegitimization campaigns against the chamber;
- Protect and support the **system of self-governance** as a safeguard for medical quality and public health;
- Reaffirm Hungary's **commitment to European standards** of professional autonomy and rule of law.

We express our unwavering **solidarity with our colleagues in Hungary**. Undermining a medical chamber is not just a threat to the medical profession, but also to the health and well-being of the entire population.

Signed by:



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Order of Physicians of Albania National Council



Dr Nikolay Branzalov

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Dr Péter Zoltán Álmos
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Endorsed and supported by the European Doctors (CPME)



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