

## Statement on the independence of the ethical principles of the medical profession in Albania

The Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians are united by their similar structures, which have historically taken on this form in Central and Eastern Europe. Although the role of medical chambers is defined differently from country to country, medical self-governance is an essential feature of all our healthcare systems. All medical chambers take on the different tasks that are delegated to them by their respective governments.

With this in mind, the medical chambers from Central and Eastern Europe present at their 31<sup>st</sup> annual Symposium in Pristina on 7 September 2024 express their extreme concern about the latest development in Albania regarding the proposed changes to the law on the Order of Physicians of Albania (OPA), which calls into question its independence of medical ethics matters and the assessment of violations of professional principles.

The medical profession develops ethical principles on a global and general basis. The physician-patient relationship and the trust of patients in the work of their physicians are of particular importance for a good healthcare provision. Independence is one of the most important cornerstones of the profession and safeguards the highest quality of medical practice and autonomy.

Medical Ethics is not a matter of political decision, nor can a medical chamber decide criminal cases. In criminal cases the rule of law applies.

The Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians express their support for the Albanian Order of Physicians and hope for wise decisions by the political leaders in collaboration with the OPA in the best interest of the patients and the independent medical profession.

The Medical Chambers present:



Österreichische Ärztekammer  
(Austrian Medical Chamber)



Kosovo Doctors Chamber



Bundesärztekammer  
(German Medical Association)



Doctor's Chamber of North Macedonia



Croatian Medical Chamber



Hungarian Medical Chamber



Czech Medical Chamber



Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists



Slovak Medical Chamber