



Dr. Fatmir Brahimaj
President
Order of Physicians of Albania
National Council
Rr. "Belul Hatibi"
Poliklinika Nr. 10
Tirana, ALBANIA

5th November 2015

Election of the Order of Physicians of Albania

Dear Dr. Brahimaj,

The World Medical Association has had the pleasure of working closely with your organisation for many years as a member of the World Medical Association. We are aware, that one of the key features of the healthcare system that unites many of our member organisations and the vast majority of other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is your dedication to a system of physicians' self-governance.

Through our cooperation with the Order of Physicians of Albania, we have come to learn about the important role your organisation plays in the medical profession of Albania and to trust in its commitment to the local rule of law.

For this reason, we were surprised to learn of the Ministry of Health's involvement in the election process and the above-mentioned legal proceedings. In order for the OPA to remain effective in accordance with European and international standards, it must retain its independence from any political influence. This is also essential to the OPA's status as a constituent member of international organisations like the World Medical Association. Self-governance enhances professional competence and integrity and promotes the collegial exchange of experience and expertise. Effective self-regulation of the medical profession is the best way to ensure quality of care and promote the general welfare of the population.

On behalf of the World Medical Association, we would like to assure you of our firm and continued commitment to our colleagues in the Albanian medical profession. We fully support the independence of the Order of Physicians of Albania and have called upon the Albanian Ministry of Health to duly respect the system of physicians' self-governance in your country.

We wish you strength and determination in the face of the challenges currently confronting your organization and urge you to continue advocating for that which is in the best interests of physicians and their patients.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Sir Michael Marmot
President



Dr. Ardis D. Hoven
Chair of Council