

## KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER - THE FIRST SUCCESS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM



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My political goal, since the first days of my mandate as Minister of Health in 2011, was to establish one of the three main pillars of the country's healthcare system reform, the pillar of well-organized professional human resources that would be able to carry the increased public responsibility of healthcare professionals in the reform process, both towards citizens and towards relevant local and international institutions. We successfully achieved this goal through the collaborative partnership between the Ministry of Health, professional associations in the field of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and physiotherapy, trade union organizations in these fields, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency and the German Medical Association. At the end of the rather complex process, which on the one hand included the legislative component and on the other the organizational and managerial component, with the Law on Chambers of Health Professionals, adopted on July 4, 2013, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber was established for the first time in the history of Kosovo healthcare, as the first of five professional chambers. This was the first success of the newly launched healthcare reform.

I consider that the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has fulfilled the objectives defined by Kosovo's healthcare strategy and the legislation in force. On the one hand it enabled the organizational and functional integration of Kosovo doctors, and on the other hand provided mechanisms for their continuous professional development. By ensuring quality, well-controlled processes of registration and licensing of doctors on the one hand, and their specialization and sub-specialization on the other hand, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has fulfilled its public role by advancing the professional, ethical and moral qualities of its members, as well as by articulating the specific interests of doctors in the healthcare reform process and relevant social processes.

Currently, the main challenge faced by the Doctors Chamber is to strengthen its role in the process of continuing the healthcare reform,

interrupted in 2015, as the only process that will create hope for the rapid advancement of Kosovo healthcare, overcoming current difficulties, and the substantial improvement of the professional and material perspective of Kosovo doctors. I consider that the Doctors Chamber should be much more vocal and more determined in the demands for the implementation of the legislation in force that regulates the other two pillars of healthcare reform, the Law on Health (family medicine services and the Hospital and Clinical University Service of Kosovo) and the Health Insurance Law that regulates the operation of the Health Insurance Fund. I think that this is the vital interest of doctors and the priority task of their representative organization at this time of serious stagnation in Kosovo healthcare.

The Doctors Chamber should be transformed into a promoter and generator of healthcare reform in the country, the first result of which has been its own establishment; it is this historical responsibility which, I am convinced, Kosovo doctors, together with the professionals in other health chambers, will successfully fulfill. The Kosovo Doctors Chamber will be able to realize all its transformative potential only in the circumstances of a reformed healthcare system, hence, insisting on the immediate continuation of the reform interrupted in 2015, through the transformation of the HCUSK into a central level public enterprise and the full operationalization of the Health Insurance Fund, represents an imperative of the times.

I vividly remember the day, when I was no longer Minister of Health, and I entered the premises of the Chamber as a doctor, to fulfill my legal obligations of re-licensing. It was a great pleasure to see a political vision successfully realized. For this, I would like to sincerely thank all my colleagues, local and international, the leadership of the Chamber, and especially my colleagues, doctors of all professional profiles, who fulfilled my political vision with complete success.

May God bless the Kosovo Doctors Chamber.



Signing the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology

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