



German Medical Association
Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians
German Medical Assembly
PRESIDENT

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Via email

Mr Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister of Hungary
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Berlin, 21 August 2025

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Our ref.: KR/PP/Pd/Ol
Your ref.: 865

Letter of support for the Hungarian Medical Chamber

Dear Prime Minister Orbán,

As president of the German Medical Association, I wish to express my profound concern over the escalating political pressure being exerted on the Hungarian Medical Chamber (MOK).

As the joint association of the State Chambers of Physicians, the German Medical Association has worked closely with the Hungarian Medical Chamber for many years, both on a bilateral basis and in European and international bodies like the European Doctors (CPME) and the World Medical Association (WMA).

Since Hungary reintroduced its medical chamber system in the early 1990s, thus reviving its longstanding tradition of an independent and self-regulating medical profession after the fall of the communist regime, it has represented its country and its positions confidently and competently at our meetings, such as the annual symposium of the Chambers of Physicians of Central and Eastern Europe (ZEVA), which brings together all the medical chambers in the region.



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It has become one of the driving forces and leading medical chambers in the region, advocating for its patients and the healthcare system it serves, as well as for the rule of law and the highest medical standards. This has remained consistent regardless of the government's composition.

An organisation representing a free profession, offering expert, non-partisan advice to the government in the interests of patients and physicians should be recognised as an indispensable partner.

For the German Medical Association, Hungary's organised physicians and the medical chamber represent an essential pillar of the medical profession in the region.

One of the fundamental principles that unites our organisations, and indeed the healthcare systems of most Central and Eastern European countries, is our shared dedication to a system of physicians' self-governance. This tradition is deeply rooted in the history of every Central European country, and it has been consistently upheld and strengthened for over two centuries.

Self-governance enhances professional competence and integrity, while fostering collegial exchange of experience and expertise. Effective self-regulation of the medical profession is the best way to ensure quality of care, which ultimately benefits the general health and well-being of the population. In order to establish and uphold standards that are often a matter of life and death, it is essential for all physicians to be members of this organisation.

I am deeply alarmed to learn that the chamber's rights have been systematically curtailed through the abolishment of mandatory membership and the transfer of ethical oversight from the chamber to a government-controlled body.

On behalf of the German Medical Association, I reiterate our firm commitment to our colleagues in the Hungarian medical profession and call upon the Hungarian government to respect the independence of the chamber, to put an end to false and misleading rhetoric targeting the chamber, and to enable the system of physicians' self-governance to flourish in Hungary in the best interest of the Hungarian healthcare system and the patients in your country.

I remain at your disposal for any questions or thoughts you may have concerning the above.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Klaus Reinhardt