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Date:18.3.2021

To : Wonca Board and Andrea Zard Chief Administrative Officer

Respected

I am addressing you on behalf of the family medicine specialists of Republika Srpska (BiH) who in the past year of the pandemic were a huge support of the fight against the Corona virus in the health system. The health system of Republika Srpska has endured and still suffers enormous pressure and Sars cov virus.

In Republika Srpska, about 45,000 people have been positive for the corona virus so far. Currently, 875 people are housed in the hospital sector and about 60 people are on respirators. About 2,500 have died as a result of the disease. The pandemic has also had a huge negative impact on the economy. The institutions of the entities have made a strong effort to allocate around 50 million marks or 25 million euros to stabilize the business of health care institutions. In the past period, health workers did not lack personal protective equipment and patients had a sufficient number of tests and necessary medicines.

Family medicine and doctors were involved in the work of ARI tracts and Covid ambulances and contributed to the work of local and national quarantines. A difficult year is ahead of us and an uncertain period is ahead. Also, our Government of Republika Srpska is working to protect the health of health workers. The Government of the Republic of Serbia has started mass immunization, which has so far included a large number of our employees. We believe that in this way a high degree of respect for the needs of health workers has been shown and care for them has been expressed. The Entity Government has earmarked additional funds for personal incomes, standards and existences. The Association of Family Medicine Doctors of Republika Srpska coordinated efforts with the Republic Staff and monitored information from the field and helped to protect the rights of specialists. Also, regardless of the pandemic, it provided the necessary professional information, especially about Covid and the latest scientific knowledge in practice. A series of ON -line trainings was organized and conferences were organized. Conference XV Days of Family Medicine of RS with international participation. The conference was realized with the use of digital technology and enabled direct monitoring of professional content by you tube channel and live streaming. World Day of Family Physicians was also marked by the same model.

In the spirit of the current situation, please use your authority to influence regulatory bodies and services and examine the possibility of exempting us from paying membership fees for 2020 and 2021 due to the new situation, especially in economically underdeveloped countries, so that we can catch our breath and economically stabilize our business consequence of disturbed economic flows. This would mean an act of solidarity with our doctors and a message that European values have no alternative. Also, since the vaccination with Sputnik V vaccine is currently underway in Republika Srpska due to the fact that it is currently only available to us as well as the Sinofarm Chinese vaccine in some places in the country, please consider and as health professionals send a joint appeal to the EU authorities by our WONCE that any types of vaccines received by citizens should be respected when moving through Europe because all these types have passed the regulations of health agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this should be respected. Of course, as soon as they come to our country citizens will be vaccinated with other vaccines under the COVAX program.

Hoping you will have an understanding for our situation

kind regards

Sincerely

Prim Dr. Sc Draško Kuprešak

President Association of Family Physicians of Republic of Srpska,

Prim.dr Danijel Atijas - Official Representative Association of Family Physicians of Republic of Srpska,

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