

## WONCA Europe Secretariat

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Mr. Mihai Tudose  
Prime Minister of Romania

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

We read with much concern the letter sent to us by our Member Organisation, the Romanian National Society of Family Medicine, about its struggle for the rights of family doctors and patients in Romania and the street protest organised in Bucuresti in November.

As an association representing 120,000 family doctors across 45 countries of the European region, we have been observing and documenting the status of primary health care in our region for many years. During the 67th session of the World Health Organisation Regional Committee for Europe we released a statement highlighting key facts about primary health care such as:

- Primary health care is a pillar for sustainable health systems, building upon interprofessional collaboration to deliver a wide range of equitable, affordable and high-quality services;
- As gatekeepers and coordinators for many health services, we safeguard people's health by reducing overdiagnosis and overtreatment in such ways as the rationalisation of the antibiotic use, assisting patients in prioritizing, and avoiding excessive and harmful investigations.

In order to achieve these goals, family doctors need to have adequate health system regulations, be well funded and be respected.

Our hope is that the population in Romania will have access to high quality primary care in the future. We support the family physicians in Romania in their ongoing efforts to make that come true.

In March 2018, the WONCA Europe Executive Board will meet in Bucuresti, and we will be very happy if we can meet with you and representatives from the health authorities on that occasion, to share experiences, exchange ideas and make a strong case for primary care and family medicine.

Kind regards,

Dr Anna Stavdal  
WONCA Europe President

Dr Harris Lygidakis  
WONCA Europe Hon. Secretary