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**Ambassador and Head of Delegation of
European Union to the Republic of Serbia**

**Ambasador i šef Delegacije Evropske
unije u Republici Srbiji**

Belgrade, 18.november, 2025.

Beograd, 18.novembar, 2025.

Matter: An Actual Support of the EU in the Fight
Against the Systemic Corruption in Serbia's Health
System Is Required

Predmet: Neophodna konkretna podrška EU
borbi protiv sistemske korupcije u zdravstvu
Srbije.

Your Excellency,

Vaša Ekselencijo,

As a self-financed, independent NGO and recipient of the European Healthcare Fraud and Corruption Network ([EHFCN](#)) award, we believe it is necessary to describe to you the state of the Serbian healthcare system—not through worn-out bureaucratic euphemisms, but by pointing to real and concrete facts.

Kao samofinansirajuća nezavisna NVO, dobitnik nagrade Evropske mreže protiv prevare i korupcije u zdravstvu ([EHFCN](#)), smatramo neophodnim da Vam opišemo stanje u srpskom zdravstvenom sistemu, ne preko otrcanih birokratskih eufemizama, već ukazivanjem na realne i konkretne činjenice.

Serbian healthcare is trapped in systemic corruption generated by the political parties in power in accordance with the commercial interests of their business partners. The consequences for the life and health of Serbian citizens are drastic. ([here](#))

Srpsko zdravstvo je zarobljeno sistemskom korupcijom koju generišu političke stranke na vlasti u skladu sa komercijalnim interesima svojih poslovnih partnera. Posledice po život i zdravlje građana Srbije su drastične. ([ovde](#))

Systemic corruption is embedded in the laws that shape Serbia's healthcare system. The inherited, anachronistic model of healthcare has been further worsened by the corrupt and monopolistic solutions adopted in 2005. The consequences are disastrous. Citizens of Serbia, even today in 2025, still do not have the possibility of freely choosing their doctor, which is contrary to the European Charter of Patients' Rights, while artificial waiting lists in an inefficient state healthcare system force citizens to pay again out of pocket for medical treatment, even though they already pay a mandatory health contribution of 10.3% on their gross salary. This situation leads to severe health discrimination against a large number of economically disadvantaged citizens.

Sistemska korupcija je implementirana u zakonima koji oblikuju zdravstveni sistem Srbije. Nasleđeni anahroni model zdravstvene zaštite je dodatno pogoršan koruptivnim i monopoliskim rešenjima usvojenim 2005.godine. Posledice su pogubne. Građani Srbije ni danas u 2025.godini nemaju mogućnost slobodnog izbora lekara, što je u suprotnosti sa Evropskom poveljom o pravima pacijenata, a veštačke liste čekanja u neefikasnom državnom zdravstvu teraju građane da ponovo plate lečenje iz džepa iako već plaćaju obavezni zdravstveni doprinos od 10.3% na bruto platu. Takva situacija dovodi do teške zdravstvene diskriminacije velikog broja građana slabog imovinskog stanja.

Responsible individuals in cases of proven institutional corruption ([here](#)) enjoy political protection and avoid sanctions through the mechanism of judicial statute of limitations, while the harmed victims or their families are deprived of the right to compensation. At the same time, whistleblower physicians are mercilessly persecuted. The absence of sanctions for both systemic and institutional corruption strongly encourages the spread of this criminal anomaly within the healthcare system.

Odgovorna lica u slučajevima dokazane institucionalne korupcije ([ovde](#)), imaju političku zaštitu i preko mehanizma sudske zastarelosti izbegavaju sankcije a oštećene žrtve odnosno porodice bivaju uskraćene za pravo na nadoknadu štete. Istovremeno, lekari uzbunjivači bivaju nemilosrdno progonjeni. Nepostojanje sankcija u slučajevima i sistemske i institucionalne korupcije snažno podstiče širenje ove zločinačke anomalije u zdravstvenom sistemu.

We have carefully studied Chapter 28 in the latest European Commission Report on Serbia and have concluded that it is insufficient because it fails to highlight the pronounced health inequality with dangerous consequences for a large number of citizens as a result of legalized corruption. For example, the systemic Law on Healthcare legitimizes conflicts of public and private interest (Article 60), as well as “baksheesh” (Article 234)!

We agree with the assessments in Chapter 23 regarding the stagnation in the fight against corruption and the lack of results, with the additional note that the healthcare sector is the most exposed to this criminal phenomenon. The EC's assessment of the inefficiency of the judiciary is also confirmed by our experience, as not a single case of institutional corruption in healthcare has reached a judicial conclusion.

Mr. Ambassador,

We are convinced that our shared goal is the reform of the Serbian healthcare system in accordance with EU quality standards. Unfortunately, this is not possible due to the high level of corruption and the lack of political will to eliminate this malignant phenomenon, as stated by the EC.

Therefore, we consider it our duty to place at your disposal the many years of experience of our NGO so that, through joint efforts, we may effectively eradicate corruption in the healthcare system and its devastating consequences for the lives and health of millions of Serbian citizens.

With respect,

Dr. Borko Josifovski
Dr. Draško Karađinović

NGO Doctors Against Corruption
www.healthcareanticorruption.org

Pažljivo smo proučili Poglavlje 28 u posljednjem Izveštaju EK o Srbiji i došli do zaključka da je insuficijentno zbog neukazivanja na izraženu zdravstvenu nejednakost sa opasnim posledicama za veliki broj građana usled legalizovane korupcije. Primera radi, sistemski Zakon o zdravstvenoj zaštiti verifikuje konflikt javnog i privatnog interesa (čl 60), odnosno “bakšiš” (čl 234)!

Sa ocenama iz Poglavlja 23 o zastoju borbe protiv korupcije i nedostatku rezultata smo saglasni uz napomenu da je oblast zdravstva najizloženija toj kriminalnoj pojavi. Ocenu EK o neefikasnosti pravosuđa potvrđuje i naše iskustvo jer ni jedan slučaj institucionalne korupcije u zdravstvu nije dobio sudski epilog.

Gospodine Ambasadore,

Ubeđeni smo da je naš zajednički cilj reforma srpskog zdravstva u skladu sa standardima kvaliteta EU. Nažalost, to nije moguće zbog visokog stepena korupcije i pomanjkanja političke volje da se, kako je konstatovala EK, ta maligna pojava eliminiše.

Stoga smatramo da smo u obavezi da Vam stavimo na raspolaganje višegodišnje iskustvo naše NGO kako bi udruženim delovanjem efikasno iskorenili korupciju u zdravstvenom sistemu i njene razorne posledice po život i zdravlje miliona građana Srbije.

S poštovanjem,

Dr Borko Josifovski
Dr Draško Karađinović

NVO Doktori protiv korupcije
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