

Introduction:

- ✓ Formation: The Montenegrin Medical Chamber was established by the decision of the Parliament of Montenegro.
- ✓ Founding Date: The founding Assembly was held on July 20, 1995.
- ✓ Law: The right to establish the Chamber was granted to medical professionals (doctors, dentists) for the protection of professionalism and ethics.

Assembly of the MMC:

✓ **Membership**: The Assembly consists of 49 members elected through direct elections.

- ✓ **Term**: Members serve a term of 4 years, with regular sessions held at least once a year.
- ✓ **Duties**: Adopts statutes, medical ethics code, financial reports, and licensing regulations.

Executive Board and Permanent Commissions:

✓ Executive Board: Composed of 9 members, including the President and Vice President of the Chamber.

✓ Commissions:

- Commission for Ethical Issues
- Commission for Continuous Education
- Commission for Professional Matters
- Commission for Traditional and Alternative Medicine
- Commission for Private Healthcare Institutions
- Commission for the Destruction of Facsimiles

Commission for Ethical Issues:

- ✓ Monitors adherence to the Code of Medical Ethics
- ✓ Proposes amendments to the ethics code
- ✓ Reviews complaints and maintains the profession's reputation.

Supervisory Board and Court of the Chamber:

✓ **Supervisory Board**: Oversees the use of funds and financial operations of the Chamber.

✓ Court of the Chamber: An independent body that adjudicates violations of laws and ethical codes. Court decisions are final.

Overview of Public Health Challenges in Montenegro:

- ✓ Low Funding: Only 6.5% of GDP allocated to health, below the European average of 10%.
- ✓ **Doctor Shortages**: Approximately 3 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants; critical lack in pediatrics and infectious diseases.
- ✓ **Regional Disparities**: Significant healthcare access issues between the north and south.

Impact of Politicization on Healthcare:

✓ Political Appointments: Health institution directors chosen for political reasons, affecting quality of care.

✓ Public-Private Healthcare Divide: Patients often forced to seek private services due to inadequacies in public care.

Role of the MMC:

✓ Advocacy for Reform: Promoting public-private partnerships to enhance healthcare without extra costs to patients.

✓ Focus on Retaining Medical Professionals: Addressing issues that drive doctors to urban areas of Montenegro (centralisation) or abroad.

Initiatives for Improvement:

- ✓ Call for Professional Respect: Emphasizing the need for healthcare professionals in policy-making regarding healthcare system.
- ✓ Proposed Legal Changes: New healthcare law, integration of public and private sectors, and protections for healthcare workers.
- ✓ **Support for Young Doctors**: Development of an electronic database and investment in resources for future generations.

