



Kıbrıs Türk Tabipleri Birliđi Cyprus Turkish Medical Association

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Cyprus Turkish Medical Association (CTMA) Northern Cyprus September 2025-May 2026 Country Report

The reporting period has been particularly challenging and characterized by sustained advocacy and collective action.

Following the recent presidential elections, Tufan Erhürman was elected as President, representing a more moderate and pro-European orientation. During our official meeting, CTMA emphasized key priorities, including the strengthening of the healthcare system, the protection and advancement of physicians' rights, and the need for more effective oversight of higher education institutions operating under the Presidency. We further called for enhanced cooperation between the relevant supervisory authority and CTMA.

In addition, CTMA underlined the necessity of formal representation within the bicomunal health committee established under the auspices of the United Nations between Northern and Southern Cyprus. We note with satisfaction that these proposals were received positively.

On 22 November, a scientific and professional meeting was convened addressing working conditions in Europe, the role of women in healthcare, and gender inequality among physicians by CTMA and TCPU. The President of FEMS, Dr. Aleksandra Spedicato, and Vice President Dr. Renata Culinovic Caic delivered comprehensive presentations to Turkish Cypriot physicians. Their contributions provided valuable insights into FEMS' vision and European healthcare systems, significantly contributing to professional awareness and engagement.

CTMA has continued and intensified its longstanding efforts concerning medical education and specialist training. These efforts focus on the regulation and effective oversight of program accreditation, student admissions, quota allocation, educational quality, and graduation requirements. A legislative proposal developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and submitted to parliament was subsequently withdrawn under pressure from university stakeholders and reintroduced in an unacceptable form. In response, CTMA escalated its advocacy efforts, including symbolic protest actions and sustained public communication campaigns through media and digital platforms. Due to the resulting erosion of institutional trust, CTMA has suspended its relations with the Ministry of Health. The proposed legislation has not been enacted, and CTMA continues to monitor developments closely while maintaining this issue on the public agenda.

Furthermore, CTMA has supported initiatives advocating for secular and inclusive education, particularly in opposition to proposed regulations permitting the use of religious symbols in



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public schools. Following legal challenges led by education unions, the Constitutional Court annulled the regulation, thereby upholding the principle of secular education.

With regard to environmental protection, CTMA, as a key component of a national environmental platform, has actively participated in collective efforts opposing the allocation of forest land to a university. As a result of sustained advocacy and public pressure, the legislation was returned by the President for reconsideration. Considering environmental protection as a fundamental public health issue, CTMA will continue its cooperation with environmental organizations in the country and maintain its advocacy on environmental matters.

With regard to unilateral and unjust interventions affecting the working conditions of public sector physicians, CTMA has consistently supported the legitimate actions of the physicians' trade union TCPU and stood in solidarity with its members.

In the broader socio-economic context of rising inflation, CTMA has also supported trade unions advocating against inequitable reductions in wages and employment rights of public sector workers, reaffirming its commitment to social justice and labor rights.

Throughout this period, CTMA has actively engaged in public advocacy by issuing multiple press statements and collaborating with civil society organizations. These efforts have focused on ensuring equitable and accessible healthcare, strengthening preventive health services, safeguarding human rights, and promoting improved working conditions for all employees, with the overarching aim of contributing to a more peaceful and equitable Northern Cyprus.

CTMA remains committed to continuing its work in close cooperation with progressive civil society organizations in the forthcoming period.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Ceyhun Dalkan, MD
President