

STATUTE OF THE BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

(Adopted by the 32nd General Assembly, amended and supplemented by the 44th, 47th, 52nd, 55th, 56th, 57th and 63rd General Assembly of the Bulgarian Medical Association)

CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1. /1/ This statute settles the structure, organization and activities of the Bulgarian Medical Association.

/2/ The Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA) is a professional organization of physicians within the meaning of the Law on the Professional Organizations of Physicians and Dentists (LPOPD).

/3/ The Bulgarian Medical Association is the successor to the Bulgarian Medical Association established in 1901 and an adherent of its goals, traditions and activities.

Art. 2 /1/ The Bulgarian Medical Association is a legal entity with head office in Sofia.

/2/ It exercises its own activity locally through regional associations (RA) of BMA

Art. 3 /1 / All physicians who practise their profession in the Republic of Bulgaria shall be members of the Bulgarian Medical Association.

/2/ The membership of non-practicing physicians and those temporarily residing abroad shall be on a voluntary basis.

/3/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The members of BMA may associate based on place of work, residence, on a territorial, strictly professional or other principle.

CHAPTER TWO - FUNCTIONS

Art. 4. The Bulgarian Medical Association shall have the following functions:

1. to represent its members and protect their professional rights and interests;
2. to represent its members as a party to the National Framework Agreement (NFA) on compulsory health insurance;
3. (Repealed 19-21.10.2012)
4. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) to defend, within its powers, the physicians before government and municipal bodies, boards of medical establishments, individuals and entities and to refer to the relevant bodies at its own discretion;
5. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) to draft, adopt and monitor the compliance with the Code of Professional Ethics of Physicians;
6. to adopt rules of good medical practice, to submit them for approval to the Minister of Health and to monitor the compliance therewith;
7. to participate in the drafting of medical standards;
8. to control the quality of medical treatment and diagnostic activities in accordance with the Rules of Good Medical Practice and the medical standards;
9. to impose the penalties provided for in the Law on the Professional Organizations of Physicians and Dentists;
10. to compile and maintain the national and regional registers of members;
11. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) to organize, coordinate, deliver and register the

- continuing medical education of physicians through the Accreditation Council of BMA;
12. to give opinions regarding the academic quotas for admission of medical students and graduate students for the various academic specialties;
 13. to participate with representatives in the Supreme Medical Council at the Ministry of Health;
 14. to give opinions on draft legislation in the field of health;
 15. to cooperate with other organizations and institutions in the country and abroad;
 16. to support its members and their families as needed;
 17. to perform other activities as determined by the General Assembly of BMA.

CHAPTER THREE - STRUCTURE

SECTION ONE - CENTRAL BODIES

Art. 5. /1/ The bodies of BMA at the national level shall be:

1. The General Assembly of BMA;
2. (Repealed on 19-21.10.2012)
3. The Managing Board (MB);
4. The Supervisory Committee;
5. The Professional Ethics Committee (PEC);
6. (Repealed on 19-21.10.2012)

/2/ (new 19-21.10.2012) The bodies referred to in par. 1 are permanent bodies of BMA.

/3/. (Previous para. 2, amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The permanent structures of BMA are the National Council (NC) and the Accreditation Council. The elected chairpersons of the managing boards of the regional medical associations and the Managing Board of BMA shall be ex officio members of the National Council. 6 (six) representatives from BMA quota shall be members of the Accreditation Council.

Art. 6 /1/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The General Assembly of BMA shall be composed of delegates - representatives of the regional associations.

/2/ The representatives under para. 1 shall be elected by the general meetings of the regional associations with basis of representation one delegate for every 75 members. The regional association shall qualify for one additional delegate if the number of its members exceeds a divisible of 75 by more than 38.

/3/ (amended 19-21.10.2012) The body referred to in para. 1 shall convene at regular meetings every three years (a regular General Assembly according to LPOPD) and at extraordinary meetings (an extraordinary General Assembly).

/4/ (amended. 19-21.10.2012) The members of the National Council; the chairpersons of the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee and BMA representatives in the Accreditation Council, who are not elected as delegates by the respective regional medical association, shall attend the meetings of the General Assembly with no voting rights.

/5/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The term of office of the elected representatives under para. 1 shall be three years and until the following regular General Assembly of BMA.

/6/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) If the chairperson of a RA of has failed to pay any membership fee deductions to MB of BMA due pursuant to the statute, for a period longer than three months, the number of delegates with voting rights shall be determined based on the number of members of the regional association, whose membership fee deductions have been duly paid to MB of BMA. In such case the specific delegates entitled to vote shall be determined based on the order of votes obtained according to Minutes for the election of delegates by the

General Assembly of RA of BMA. The other delegates shall attend meetings of the General Assembly with no voting rights.

Art. 7. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The date, venue and the proposed agenda of the General Assembly shall be set by the Managing Board as shall be communicated in writing to the regional medical associations not later than two months prior to the opening date – for regular General Assemblies - and not later than one month prior to the opening date - for extraordinary General Assemblies. The agenda shall be adopted by voting by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall also vote on proposals for changes in the agenda.

/2/ Regular reporting and election General Assembly meetings shall be held not later than two months after the end of the three year term of office of the representatives elected to the central bodies under Art. 5, para 1.

/3/ If the General Assembly of BMA is not convened in accordance with the established procedure within the period set forth in para.2, the Supervisory Committee shall convene and conduct the General Assembly within one month of expiry of the period set forth para 2.

/4/ An extraordinary medical General Assembly shall be convened:

1. pursuant to a resolution of the Managing Board;

2. (Repealed 19-21.10.2012)

3. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) at the request of at least two-thirds of the managing boards of the regional medical associations;

4. (new 19-21.10.2012) pursuant to a decision of the previous General Assembly .

/5/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) Upon request for an extraordinary medical General Assembly, under the terms of items 3 and 4 of the preceding paragraph, the Managing Board shall convene it within one month subject to a prior written notice to RA of BMA by publishing the invitation on the official website of BMA.

/6/ If the Managing Board fails to convene the extraordinary General Assembly within the set period, the General Assembly shall be convened and conducted by the Supervisory Committee within one month of expiry of the period set forth in para 3.

Art. 8. BMA General Assembly shall:

1. adopt, amend and supplement the statute of the organization;

2. adopt, amend and supplement the Code of Professional Ethics of physicians and shall submit it to the Minister of Health for approval and publication in the State Gazette;

3. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012, amended 08.05.2015) elect the members of the Managing Board, the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee of BMA in their presence, and shall discharge them in absentia;

4. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012, amended 08.05.2015) elect the chairperson, the deputy chairpersons, the chairperson of the Accreditation Council, the secretary general of MB of BMA; the chairperson of the Supervisory Committee, the chairperson of the Professional Ethics Committee out of the attending members of BMA, and shall discharge them in absentia;

5. elect and discharge the representatives of BMA in the Supreme Medical Council at the Ministry of Health;

6. (Amended 19-21.10.2012) the ten (10) representatives elected out of the members of the Managing Board to participate in the drafting and signing of the National Framework Agreement on compulsory health insurance, shall sign the Agreement following an extraordinary Meeting of BMA, which shall adopt and approve the draft National Framework Agreement and shall delegate rights to the ten representatives to sign it;

7. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012, amended 08.05.2015) The regular General Assembly shall adopt the reports on the activities of the Managing Board, the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee and the Accreditation Council;
8. set the minimum amount of the membership fee and the amount of the deductions payable to the national bodies;
9. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) adopt a report on the implementation of the budget for the past three-year term of office and discharge or not discharge the Managing Board;
10. (new 19-21.10.2012) At the first extraordinary General Assembly for the year the Managing Board shall submit an annual financial report for the previous year and at the General Assembly convened to vote powers for the signing of NFA - a draft budget for following year.
11. (previous section 10, amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) Take a decision and set a deadline for convening the extraordinary General Assembly; decide on any other matters related to the organization.
12. (new 19-21.10.2012) Verbatim minutes shall be kept at each General Assembly together with an audio-video recording. Within 15 working days after the General Assembly a summary record shall be drafted, which shall contain as a mandatory requirement the decisions of the General Assembly, shall be certified by the Chairperson of the Managing Board of BMA, the Secretary General of the Managing Board of BMA and a lawyer. These minutes shall be sent to the Regional Association of BMA in writing and shall be published on the official website of BMA. The verbatim record shall be kept at the headquarters of BMA and shall be certified by the Chairperson of the Managing Board of BMA, the secretary general of the Managing Board of BMA and a stenographer and shall be stamped with the seal of the association.

Art. 9. /1/ The General Assembly of BMA shall be deemed validly convened if at least two-thirds of the elected representatives are present.

/2/ (amended 19-21.10.2012) If the required number of delegates in accordance with the preceding paragraph is not present, and if, after the period of registration of delegates is extended with 2 hours the quorum is still not met, the Managing Board of BMA shall postpone the General Assembly to another date with the same agenda.

Art. 10. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) Every delegate to the General Assembly shall have one vote and no voting by proxy shall be permitted. Members of the Bulgarian Medical Association who are not elected as delegates may attend the General Assembly but may not participate in its work.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The adoption and amendment of the Statute and the Code of Professional Ethics by the General Assembly shall require a qualified majority of two-thirds of the attending delegates with voting rights, but not less than half plus one of the registered delegates with voting rights, while all other decisions – a simple majority of the delegates present, but not less than one half plus one of the registered delegates with voting rights.

Art. 11. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 08.05.2015) The Managing Board (MB) of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson, two deputy chairpersons, a chairperson of the Accreditation Council, a secretary general and ten members.

/2/ The Managing Board shall be convened for regular meetings at least once every three months, and for extraordinary meetings.

/3/ The Managing Board shall meet in the presence of not less than two-thirds of the regular

members and shall adopt its decisions in accordance with the procedures provided for in its rules of procedure.

Art. 12. /1/ The Managing Board of BMA shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

1. to convene the General Assembly;
2. to manage the assets of BMA;
3. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012 is viable and 01.06.2013) to establish a National Register of BMA Members and publish in the State Gazette a list of members registered to practise the profession. The list shall be updated and the changes shall be published in the State Gazette once a year. The National Register of BMA Members shall be updated regularly - every three months on the official website of BMA and shall contain: the full name of the physician, unique ID No, regional association, specialty, place of work.
4. (Amended and supplemented 01/06/2013) to ensure the protection of the data in the register against unauthorized access; to establish a single model of a membership card certifying the individual BMA membership of each physician.
5. manage the activities of the association related to the fulfilment of its functions;
6. to adopt the budget, the structure, the staffing and rules of procedure of the administration of BMA;
7. (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) to set up auxiliary committees on various matters, composed of members of the association and other experts. To approve, at the proposal of the Union of Bulgarian Medical Specialists, BMA's national experts in all approved fields for expert assistance to the Professional Ethics Committees, participation in negotiations on NFA and other expert opinions.
8. to coordinate and support the activities of the regional medical associations.
9. to fulfil other functions assigned to it by the General Assembly of BMA.
10. (new 19-21.10.2012) to take decisions under Art. 39, para. 1 and para. 2 of this Statute.

/2/ (amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012 on) the Managing Board of BMA shall nominate out of its members ten (10) representatives to participate in the negotiations and the signing of the National Framework Agreement on compulsory health insurance.

Art. 13. /1/ The Chairperson of MB of BMA shall organize and manage its work and shall represent it.

/2/ The deputy chairpersons shall assist the chairperson in his work and shall substitute him in his absence in accordance with the procedure provided for in the rules of procedure of MB.

/3/ (new 08.05.2015) The chairperson of the Accreditation Council shall organize and manage its activity, coordinate the activity of BMA national experts, Specialty Boards, the activity in continuing medical education and rules of good medical practice.

/4/ (amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The Secretary General of MB shall:

1. manage the activity related to the immediate implementation of the decisions of MB and NC ;
2. organize the meetings of MB and NC ;
3. provide technical and administrative support to MB and NC .

Art. 14. /1/ The Supervisory Committee of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson and six members.

/2/ At its first meeting after being elected the Supervisory Committee shall elect out of its members, by a simple majority and secret ballot, a deputy chairperson, who shall assist the chairperson and shall substitute him in his absence.

/3/ The Supervisory Committee shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

1. to supervise the compliance with the law and the statute of the decisions taken by the MB and their implementation;
2. to review the reports under Article 27, para. 1, item 3 of LPOPD and rule thereon;
3. to submit to the General Assembly of BMA a report on its activities and proposals to discharge or not discharge members of MB.
4. (Repealed 19-21.10.2012)
5. to convene the General Assembly in the cases provided for in Art. 7, para. 3 and para. 6 hereof;
6. (new 19-21.10.2012) to supervise the lawful management of the movable and immovable assets of BMA, the collection and spending of the membership fees and all other financial proceeds and expenditures;
7. (new 19-21.10.2012) to supervise the fulfilment of the obligations of the regional associations associated with the deduction of membership fee contribution by RA of BMA to MB of BMA.
8. (new 19-21.10.2012) to report to the General Assembly any decisions and sanctions imposed for violations in accordance with section 7.

/4/ The Supervisory Committee shall take decisions by a simple majority of 2/3 of the members and shall operate in accordance with rules of procedure.

Art. 15. / 1 / The Professional Ethics Committee of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson and ten members.

/2/ At its first meeting after being elected the Professional Ethics Committee shall elect out of its members, by a simple majority and secret ballot, a deputy chairperson, who shall assist the chairperson and shall substitute him in his absence.

/3/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012) The committee shall decide on medical professional, moral and ethical and deontological matters related to the practice of the profession, on professional medical matters pertaining to the rules of good medical practice, as well as on the rules of good medical practice drafted by the societies of medical specialties.

1. Cases related to the rules of good medical practice shall be reviewed with the participation of BMA's national expert in the relevant field or following his written opinion.
2. The Committee shall provide methodological support, review and rule on cases, subject to a reasoned request by the Professional Ethics Committee at RA of BMA.
3. The Committee shall decide on appeals against decisions of the Professional Ethics Committees at RA of BMA, disputed by either party.
4. The cases referred to in items 2 and 3 shall be reviewed in collaboration with the chairperson of the regional PEC participating in the meeting in an advisory capacity.
5. The decisions of PEC of BMA under items 2 and 3 shall be recommendatory for RA of BMA. For each decision taken by it PEC of BMA shall submit a report to MB of BMA.

/4/ The Professional Ethics Committee shall meet in the presence of more than 2/3 of its members and shall take decisions by a qualified majority of 2/3 of the attending members. The committee shall operate in accordance with rules of procedure.

/5/. (new 19-21.10.2012) PEC of BMA shall maintain a register of complaints and alerts, shall carry out monitoring and issue an annual medical risk assessment analysis.

Art. 16. /1/ The regular meetings of MB shall be open to the members of BMA.

/2/ The meetings of the Supervisory Committee and the Professional Ethics Committee shall be closed.

Art. 17. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012, amended 08.05.2015) The chairperson, the deputy chairpersons, the chairperson of the Accreditation Council and secretary general of the Managing Board, the chairpersons of the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee shall be appointed and discharged by a secret ballot by a simple majority of the attending delegates, but not less than one half plus one of registered delegates with voting rights.

/2/ If any of the positions under para. 1 is not elected on the first ballot by more than half of the votes, there shall be a second ballot, whereby the two candidates with the highest votes shall compete for the position and the winning candidate shall be the one who received more votes.

The same procedure shall apply if in the event of a tie vote between two candidates for the same position on the first ballot.

/3/ (Amended and supplemented 19-21.10.2012, amended 08.05.2015) The members of the Managing Board, the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee and three alternate members of each committee shall be elected by a simple majority and secret ballot in general lists and the candidates shall be ranked according to the number of votes received.

/4/. The General Assembly shall elect the representatives of the Bulgarian Medical Association in the Supreme Medical Council, with the exception of the chairperson of the Managing Council, who is a member of the Supreme Medical Council by virtue of his electable position. The election of other members and three alternates shall be held by secret ballot and the candidates shall be ranked according to the number of votes received.

/5/ (new 19-21.10.2012) Electable positions may be held by registered and attending delegates and members of the Bulgarian Medical Association.

Art. 17a (Repealed 15.12.2012)

Art. 18. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012)

/1/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The term of office of the central and regional bodies of BMA shall be three years.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) Upon expiry of the three years, the term of office may be extended to the next General Assembly meeting, but in any case by not more than 2 months. The term of office of the central bodies of BMA may be terminated by an extraordinary General Assembly. The term of office of the regional bodies of BMA may be terminated by an extraordinary General Meeting of RA of BMA.

/3/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012, amended 08.05.2015) When electing a new chairperson, deputy chairpersons, a chairperson of the Accreditation Council and secretary general of MB of BMA, in case of dismissal, the term of office shall be deemed valid regardless of its duration.

/4/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) A person may not be elected for the same position in a central or regional body for more than two consecutive terms of office. This shall not apply to the delegates to the General Assembly of BMA.

/5/ The term of office of a person elected to a central body shall be terminated:

1. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) at his request, subject to a one month's written notice to the appropriate body, to which the person is elected;
2. in the event of death;
3. if elected to hold another electable position at BMA;
4. if the circumstances under Art . 39 are identified;
5. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) in the event of a systemic non-fulfilment of the obligations, consisting in more than three consecutive absences from meetings of the relevant

body without any valid reason. The discharge shall be recorded in a decision of the relevant central body.

6. (New 15.12.2012) in case of dropping out of a validly elected delegate to the General Assembly, the regional association shall nominate a replacement out of the elected alternate delegates and shall immediately notify MB of BMA thereof. A member of one regional association of BMA may not be a delegate to another regional association of BMA.

7. (New 15.12.2012, amended 08.05.2015) the term of office of the chairperson of MB of BMA, the deputy chairpersons, the chairperson of the Accreditation Council and the secretary general may only be terminated by the General Assembly.

Art. 19. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) /1/ When the position of chairperson of the Managing Board is vacated the chairperson's functions shall be performed by the deputy chairperson, elected by a secret ballot by the Managing Board in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Rules of Procedure of the Managing Board, pending the following General Assembly of BMA.

/2/ (Amended 08.05.2015) When the position of deputy chairperson, chairperson of the Accreditation Council or secretary general is vacated, a new one shall be elected by the first extraordinary or regular General Assembly. Pending that the functions of deputy chairperson, chairperson of the Accreditation Council or secretary general shall be performed by members of MB of BMA elected by it.

/3/ When the position of chairperson of the Supervisory Committee or the Professional Ethics Committee is vacated, it shall be held by the chairperson's deputy in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the rules.

/4/ If the number of members of a central body decreases due to dropping out of a member, the latter shall be replaced either until the end of the term of office or pending an extraordinary General Assembly by a replacement member designated on the basis of the number of votes received in the election.

Art. 20. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012)

/1/ The National Council is a permanent national-level coordinating and operational structure of BMA. The National Council shall be composed of:

1. (Amended 08.05.2015) The members of MB of BMA, including the chairperson, the secretary general, the deputy chairpersons of MB of BMA and the chairperson of the Accreditation Council;

2. The chairpersons of the MB of the regional associations of BMA or members of MB of RA of BMA authorized by them either in writing or verbally;

3. (Amended 15.12.2012) The chairpersons of the Professional Ethics Committee and the Supervisory Committee.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The work of the National Council may participate in an advisory capacity and members of expert advisory councils of BMA, representatives of associated organizations and other persons invited on an ad-hoc basis. The meetings of NC shall be open to the members of BMA.

/3/ The National Council shall be convened by the chairperson of MB of BMA at least once every three months, shall be chaired by him and shall have the following powers:

1. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to review and discuss the financial report on the implementation of the budget for the preceding calendar year and to approve the draft budget of BMA for the following calendar year.

2. to adopt, amend and supplement the Rules for Keeping and Storing the Data in the National Register ;
 3. to adopt, amend and supplement the internal regulations of BMA provided for in the statute;
 4. to adopt the draft Rules of Good Medical Practice and the draft National Framework Agreement;
 5. to decide on other issues raised by the bodies of BMA on a national level, which are beyond their exclusive competence according to LPOPD.
- /4/ The National Council shall take decisions by a simple majority in the attendance of not less than half of its members, except where this Statute provides for a different voting procedure.
- /5/. (New 15.12.2012) A chairperson of RA of BMA, who fails to pay the due deductions from the membership dues to the central bodies of BMA for more than 3 months, shall participate in the meetings of the National Council with no voting right. The voting right shall be restored once the payment of the due amount is reported.

Art. 20 a (new 15.12.2012) Accreditation Council of BMA.

- /1/ The Accreditation Council of BMA has the status of a supreme body in the system of continuing medical education.
- /2/ (Amended 08.05.2015) The Accreditation Council shall be composed of 18 members: a chairperson, five members designated by the MB of BMA from among the members of the MB of BMA, six proposed by the MB of the Union of Bulgarian Medical Specialists (UBMS) and six designated by each of the medical universities in the country.
- /3/ (Amended 08.05.2015) The regular General Assembly of BMA shall elect the chairperson of the Accreditation Council (AC), while the two deputy chairpersons of AC shall be elected out of the quota of the Union of Bulgarian Medical Specialists (UBMS) and the Medical Universities respectively.
- /4/ The Accreditation Council shall have the following powers and responsibilities:
1. to participate in the drafting of the legislation regulating the system of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) of physicians.
 2. to develop evaluation criteria for accreditation of medical establishments delivering CME and submit them for approval to the Minister of Health in accordance with the Ordinance on the Accreditation of Medical Establishments.
 3. to adopt a single credit system for assessment of the forms of CME .
 4. to report its activities to the Regular General Assembly of BMA, to submit an annual financial report to the extraordinary General Assembly of BMA and a final financial statement for the entire term of office to the regular General Assembly.
- /5/. The Accreditation Council shall have a separate bank account from BMA for the purposes of reporting revenues and expenditures associated with CME.
- /6/. The Accreditation Council shall develop and adopt its Rules of Procedure.

Art. 20 b (new 08.05.2015) Specialty Boards at BMA.

- /1/ The Specialty Boards at BMA shall be composed of 11 members: a chairperson holding the capacity of a national expert of BMA, who shall be a member of the respective specialty society and shall be designated by the UBMS; 5 members designated by the respective specialty society; 5 members designated by BMA according to a procedure established by the MB of BMA.
- /2/ The Specialty Boards at BMA shall:
1. draft and submit for approval by the General Assembly of BMA Rules of Good Medical Practice for the respective specialty;

2. give expert opinions in medical cases at the request of the Professional Ethics Committee, to controlling and jurisdictional authorities;
 3. participate in drafting and updating of the medical standards for the respective and interdisciplinary specialties;
 4. participate in the negotiations between BMA and NHIF in their capacity of specialty experts. The negotiations are led by a representative of the MB of BMA, according to the Law on the Professional Organizations of Physicians and Dentists. Proposals for changes in NFA submitted by the Specialty Boards shall be deemed legitimate if they are submitted officially by the representatives of the MB of BMA.
 5. draft, advise and approve CME/CPD programs (continuing medical education/continuing professional development) which shall be published yearly, after an assessment made by the Accreditation Council;
 6. draft, advise and approve quality criteria for the medical activities as well as perform activities in their assessment and supervision.
- /3/ The chairpersons of the Specialty Boards at BMA shall organize and manage their work as well as represent them before third parties in fulfilment of the functions assigned to them. The chairpersons of the Specialty Boards at BMA shall be entitled to form committees, expert and other working groups in the field of their respective professional sphere of activity.

SECTION TWO - REGIONAL BODIES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS

Art. 21. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012)

- /1/ The Regional Assemblies of BMA are legal entities.
- /2/ The head offices of the regional associations and the municipalities they cover are listed in the annex to LPOPD.
- /3/ The Regional Association shall be composed of the physicians listed in its register.
- /4/ The members of the regional association shall be organized in societies.
- /5/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) A society shall form the basic structural unit of the RA of the Bulgarian Medical Association and shall be established by at least 10 physicians based on place of work, residence, on a territorial, strictly professional or other principle .
- /6/ The societies, depending on the number of their members, shall elect managers or coordinators and shall organize their work according to regulations adopted by the general meeting and consistent with this statute.
- /7/ The societies, established on a territorial principle, shall join the relevant regional association and shall submit their regulations for approval, communicate the elected managers and enclose a list of their members, which shall be updated on a quarterly basis.
- /8/ (Repealed 15.12.2012)

Art. 22. The bodies of the regional association of BMA shall be:

1. The General Assembly of physicians;
2. The Managing Board of the regional association of BMA;
3. The Supervisory Committee of the regional association of BMA;
4. The Professional Ethics Committee of the regional association of BMA;
5. (Repealed 15.12.2012)

Art. 23. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The General Meeting of the regional

association of physicians shall be made up of delegates with basis of representation one delegate for every ten members elected by all societies within the territory. The notice of a General Meeting shall be sent in writing to the chairpersons of the societies and for information to MB of BMA within 15 days prior to the date of the meeting.

/2/ The General Meeting shall be convened for regular meetings once a year and for ad-hoc sessions. The procedure for convening the meeting and the rules of procedure and decision-making shall be set forth in the statutes of the regional associations of BMA.

/3/ The term of office of a General Meeting shall be terminated earlier in the event of a systemic non-fulfilment of the obligations consisting in more than three absences from meetings of the General Meeting without any valid reason. In such case the delegate shall be replaced by a substitute.

Art. 24. /1/ The General Meeting shall have the following powers and obligations:

1. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to adopt a statute and rules of procedure of the bodies of the regional association. A certified copy of the statute and minutes of the General Meeting shall be sent within 15 days to MB of BMA.

2. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to adopt the report on the implementation of the regional association's budget for the previous year and the budget for the following year;

3. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to elect and discharge the chairpersons and members of MB, the supervisory committee and the professional ethics committee of the regional association and to set their term of office, subject to a maximum limit of 3 years;

4. to elect delegates to the General Assembly of BMA;

5. to approve the reports on the activity of the bodies referred to in item 3 to the regional association and to take decisions thereon;

6. to adopt rules for the collection and spending of the funds of the regional association ;

7. to decide on any other matters related to the activities of the regional association in accordance with the current national laws and regulations, the statute of BMA and its own statute .

/2/ The statute of the regional association may not conflict with the statute of BMA.

/3/. (New 15.12.2012) The term of office of the bodies elected at regional level may not exceed in duration and succession the term of office of the central bodies of BMA.

/4/. (New 15.12.2012) the regular reporting and election meetings of RA of BMA shall be held maximum two months prior to the regular General Assembly.

Art. 25. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) /1/ A General Meeting of the regional association shall be deemed validly convened if two-thirds of the elected delegates attend the meeting. If the required quorum is not met the meeting shall be postponed for an hour and shall be then held with the attending members, but not less than half of the delegates to the General Meeting. If less than half of the delegates are in attendance the meeting shall be postponed again and shall be convened by the Managing Board of the Regional Association of BMA, but not later than 10 days thereafter.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The statute shall be adopted by a qualified majority of two thirds, and all other decisions – by a simple majority of the attending delegates and may not conflict with the statute of BMA.

/3/. (new 15.12.2012) Within 15 days of the meeting the secretary of RA of BMA shall draft and send to MB of BMA minutes of the meeting, which shall include the number of attending delegates, the elected managing bodies of RA of BMA and the votes cast in their favour, as well as a list of elected delegates and alternate delegates to the General Assembly of BMA, sorted by

the number of votes received by them. Within the same time period the chairperson of MB of RA shall send to MB of BMA a certified copy of the statute of the regional association.

Art. 26. /1/ The Managing Board of the regional association of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson, a deputy -chairpersons, a secretary and members. The number of deputy chairpersons and members and the rules of procedure and decision-making shall be set out in the statutes.

/2/ The managing boards of the regional associations of BMA shall meet at regular meetings at least once every three months, as well as at extraordinary meetings.

Art. 27. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The Managing Board of a regional association of BMA shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

1. to manage the work of the regional association in accordance with the decisions of the General Meeting, the statutes and the laws ;
2. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to organize and maintain the register of the regional association and to notify the central register of any changes on a monthly basis;
3. to ensure the protection of the data in the register against unauthorized access ;
4. to send a list of its members to the managing board of BMA and to update the list with any changes;
5. to develop a draft budget and manage the assets of the regional association ;
6. to convene general meetings of the regional association ;
7. to ensure the protection of the professional rights and dignity of the members of the regional association;
8. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to enter in the register of the regional association the qualification points awarded under the CME system and any penalties imposed on members pursuant to LPOPD;
9. to assist the societies within the relevant region and ensure the coordination between them and the central bodies of BMA;
10. to ensure the regular collection of membership fees and be responsible for the accuracy of the deductions to the bodies at the national level;
11. (Repealed 15.12.2012)
12. to assist its members and their families as needed;
13. to create the necessary conditions for the members to use the necessary expert assistance in disputes relating to the practicing of the profession and unlawful refusal on the part of the regional health insurance fund to enter into a contract with them ;
14. to stringently perform its obligations under this Statute for deduction of the due amounts from the membership fee in favour of MB of BMA;
15. to perform any other functions assigned to it by the General Assembly.

Art. 28. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The chairperson of the managing board of the regional association of BMA shall be responsible for organizing and managing its work, shall act as representative of the Managing Board of BMA for the region. The chairperson of the managing board of the regional association of BMA shall be responsible as a financially liable person for the deduction from the membership fee of the due contribution to the headquarters of BMA, subject to availability of funds at the regional association. He shall issue penal decrees in accordance with the terms and the conditions of Art. 37 - Art. 41 of LPOPD.

/2/ The deputy chairpersons shall assist the chairperson in his work and shall substitute him in his

absence.

/3/ The Secretary shall:

1. manage the activities related to the immediate implementation of the decisions of the Managing Board;
2. organize and provide technical and administrative support for the overall activity of the Managing Board.

Art.29. /1/ The Supervisory Committee of the regional association of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson and members.

/2/ The number of members, the rules of procedure and the organization of the work of the committees shall be set out in the statutes of the regional associations.

Art. 30. /1/ The Supervisory Committee of the regional association shall have the following responsibilities:

1. to supervise the decisions taken by the regional MB and their implementation in terms of lawfulness and compliance with the statutes;
2. to submit to the General Meeting of the regional association of BMA a report on its activities and proposals to discharge or not to discharge the Managing Board of the Association;

3. in the event of violations of the law, the statutes or the decisions of the general meeting, within two weeks, to prepare a report and submit it to MB of BMA or to convene a General Meeting of the regional association;

4. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to supervise the collection and spending of membership fees, the payment of the membership fee deductions to MB of BMA, and any other financial revenue and expenditure of RA of BMA; to convene a General Meeting under Art. 14, para. 1, item 5, item 6 and item 7 of this Statute.

/2/ The chairperson and the members of the committee may attend the meetings of MB of the regional association.

Art. 31. /1/ The Professional Ethics Committee of the regional association of BMA shall be composed of a chairperson and members, whose number shall be set out in the statute of the regional association .

/ 2 / The work of the Committee under para. 1 shall be governed by the statute of the regional association, by rules of procedure and the Code of Professional Ethics of BMA.

/3/ The Committee under para. 1 shall have the following powers:

1. to monitor the compliance with the medical professional , the moral and ethical and the deontological matters related to the practice of the profession;
2. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) to review appeals on the matters referred to in para. 1.
 1. In the event of a significant difficulty in taking decisions, the Committee shall submit a reasoned request for methodological support to the Professional Ethics Committee of BMA.
 3. to perform other functions assigned to it by the general meeting of the regional association of BMA;
 4. to issue acts for established violations and recommendations for their elimination.

Art. 32. /1/ The regular sessions of the general meeting of the regional association and its managing board shall be open to the members of BMA.

/2/ The meetings of the committees under Art. 22 items 3 and 4 shall be closed.

Art. 33. /1/ The chairpersons, the secretaries, the deputy chairpersons and the managing board members, the chairpersons and the members of the supervisory committees and the Professional Ethics Committees of the regional associations shall be elected in accordance with Art. 17 para. 1 through para 3.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) Any early termination of their term of office shall be pursuant to Art. 18.

Art. 33 a (Repealed 15.12.2012)

Art. 33 b (Repealed 15.12.2012)

Art. 33 c (Repealed 15.12.2012)

CHAPTER IV - MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

SECTION ONE - MEMBERSHIP.

Art. 34. /1/ BMA membership shall take effect upon listing of the member in the register of the regional medical association.

/2/ The listing shall be made further to an application by the physician stating the full name, personal ID number, place of birth, person's nationality, residence address and work address.

/3/ The application shall be accompanied by:

1. a diploma of higher education;
2. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) a diploma of medical specialty or a scientific degree and title, a CME certificate of qualification - if any;
3. proof of place of work and length of service of the person;
4. for renewal of membership - an excerpt from the register regarding penalties and a certificate of no liabilities to the relevant RA of BMA, of which the person was a member ;
5. for foreign nationals – a permit for long-term residence and work in the country;
6. a certificate of no conviction.

/4/ (amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) Physicians, who are nationals of a EU Member State, of other countries of the European Economic Area or Switzerland, shall be listed in the register of a regional association of BMA based on a certificate of recognition of professional qualifications to be sent by the Minister Health pursuant to Art. 186, para. 1 of the Health Act, accompanied by copies of the documents received by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the relevant procedure.

/5/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) The listing in the register of a regional association of BMA of physicians, who are nationals of a EU Member State, of other countries of the European Economic Area or Switzerland, who provide medical services on a temporarily basis in accordance with Art. 17, para. 1 of the Law on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, shall be based on a notification to be sent by the Minister of Health, accompanied by copies of the documents received by the Ministry of Health under the relevant procedure. The listing shall be considered effective upon receipt of the notification. The grounds for the listing shall be entered in the register and the registration may be renewed annually in accordance with the same procedure.

/6/ In addition foreign nationals other than those referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 shall attach to

their application for registration documents certifying compliance with the requirements for practicing the profession as defined in Art. 186 of the Health Act.

/7/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) A physician permanently practising within the territory of more than one regional medical association shall file an application for listing and shall be a member of the regional association selected at his own discretion, subject to giving notification of the other place of work. In such case the physician shall personally submit to the regional associations of his second place of work a notice of work in the territory of that regional association, accompanied by the documents under para 3, items 1 - 5 and a document certifying that the regional association, of which the physician is a member, has been notified that the physician works in the territory of another regional association.

/8/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) In the event that a physician changes his place of work from one regional association to another without an interruption of the membership, the information in the register shall be transferred ex officio, subject to an application by the person, to the regional association of his new place of work.

/9/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) Before employing a physician an employer, who is a member of BMA, shall request from the regional association of BMA in charge of the person's place of work to submit documentation of membership or notification of place of work in the territory of the regional association of BMA, or otherwise shall be liable under the Code of Professional Ethics of physicians. A physician, who practises in the territory of a regional association of BMA, of which he is not a member, and has failed to notify the appropriate RA of BMA thereof, shall be subject to penalty pursuant to LPOPD. The penalty shall be imposed by the chairperson of MB of RA by means of a notice of administrative violation issued by the regional professional ethics committee, of which the physician is a member, and based on a notification by the regional professional ethics committee that identified the violation.

Art. 35. /1/ MB of the regional association of BMA shall verify that the requirements of chapter seven, section II of the Health Act regarding the listing of the physician in the register of the regional association are met.

/2/ If the person meets the requirements the listing shall be made within fourteen days of the filing of the documents.

/3/ MB of the regional association of BMA shall issue a certificate of listing within the deadline set out in para. 2.

/4/ The listing of a physician in the register of the regional association of BMA may be refused if:

1. the requirements under Article 32, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of LPOPD are not met;
2. the person has been delisted from the register of another regional association - for the duration of the penalty or if he has any outstanding debts to another regional association, which shall be certified by the person by submission of a certificate to that effect issued by the regional association, of which he was a members.

/5/ A refusal to list a person in the register may be appealed within seven days of receipt of the notification before MB of BMA, which shall decide on the matter within one month.

/6/ The decisions of MB of BMA shall be subject to appeal in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure before the Supreme Administrative Court.

Art. 36. /1/ The following entries shall be made in the register:

1. full name and personal identification number, place of birth and citizenship ;
2. residential address and work address ;
3. higher medical education - number and date of issuance of the diploma ;

4. specialty - number and date of issuance of the diploma ;
 5. (amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) scientific degree, academic rank - number and date of the diploma, respectively the protocol, CME certificate of qualifications;
 6. any penalties imposed pursuant to LPOPD;
 7. any effective penalty orders imposed pursuant to other laws in connection with the practice of the profession;
 8. any effective sentences for crimes related to the practice of the profession;
 9. other entries according to the Rules for Keeping and Storing Data in the Register.
- /2/ The persons listed in the register of the regional association shall declare any changes in the circumstances, which are subject to registration, within two weeks of their occurrence.
- /3/ The Managing Board of the regional medical association shall notify MB of BMA of any registered circumstances and changes in the register within one month.

Art. 37. /1/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) Physicians, who are voluntary members in accordance with the provisions of Art. 3, para. 2 of the statute shall be listed in a separate register of a regional association chosen by them subject to submission of the documents required under Article 34, para. 3 and shall pay membership fee.

/2/ Once the practice begins, the available data shall be transferred ex officio to the register of medical practitioners of the regional association responsible for the relevant place of work, subject to an application by the person to be filed within seven days.

Art. 37 a. /1/ The membership shall be terminated by means of delisting from the register of BMA, in the following cases:

1. in the event of death or of full or partial injunction;
2. suspension of the right to practise the medical profession within the meaning of the applicable law;
3. at the physician's choice, subject to a one month's written notice to the regional association ;
4. in the event of failure to pay the membership fee for a period longer than six months.

/2/ Prior to delisting a physician pursuant to Art. 37a, para. 1, item 4, the chairperson of MB of RA shall send to the physician, by registered mail or by courier service, an enforcement notice within 14 days of receipt of the due membership fee. The notice shall be sent to the address stated by the person pursuant to Article 34, para. 2 hereof. The notice shall be posted at a visible place in the building of the regional association. Upon expiration of the 14 -day period, the person shall be delisted from the register by resolution of the MB of the regional association.

Art. 37 b. (New 15.12.2012) MB of RA of BMA and their chairpersons shall not be entitled to take decisions regarding non-performance of obligations under this Statute.

SECTION TWO - RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Art. 38. The members of BMA shall have the following rights:

1. to vote and be elected to the bodies of the association and the regional associations in accordance with the terms and conditions of the statute;
2. to benefit from the assistance of the association in disputes relating to the practice of the profession;
3. to use financial aid in the event of withdrawal from work, disability, including their families in the event of their death ;

4. to be informed of all matters related to the business of the association;
5. to benefit from the assistance of the association for their professional development ;
6. to access their personal data in the register.

Art. 39. /1/ The following persons may not be elected to or hold electable positions in the General Assembly, the National Council , the Managing Board, the Supervisory Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee of BMA and the Accreditation Council:

1. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) ministers, deputy ministers, secretaries general of ministries, directors of healthcare establishments with more than 50 % government shareholding;
2. members of parliament
3. members of governing bodies of political parties and trade unions ;
4. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) members of a body of the National Health Insurance Fund or health insurance companies, or persons holding positions in such entities or in their branches under a contract;
5. (Repealed 15.12.2012)
6. persons convicted of an intentional crime of general nature;
7. persons deprived of their right to practice the profession under administrative or criminal proceedings;
8. persons with penalties imposed pursuant to LPOPD if less than three years have passed from the expiry of the penalty
9. (New 15.12.2012) persons whose affiliation to the repressive bodies of the former totalitarian government has been proven in accordance with the Law on the Access and Disclosure of Documents and Announcing Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens to the State Security and Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian People's Army .

/2/ A person may not be a member of more than one of the following electable bodies:

1. The Managing Board;
2. The Supervisory Committee;
3. The Professional Ethics Committee.
4. (New 15.12.2012) Regional government authorities

/3/ (Supplemented and amended 15.12.2012) The decisions under this article shall be adopted by the Managing Board of BMA.

Art. 40. The BMA members shall have the following obligations:

1. to practise their profession in accordance with the Code of Professional Ethics and the Rules of Good Medical Practice;
2. to comply with the statute;
3. to notify MB of their regional association of any changes associated with the practice of the profession;
4. to regularly pay their membership fee.

CHAPTER FIVE – RULES FOR RAISING AND SPENDING FUNDS

Art. 41. The Bulgarian Medical Association shall raise funds from:

1. membership fees;
2. fines imposed pursuant to LPOPD;
3. revenues from print media;
4. implementation and participation in projects and programs;

5. income from property assets;
6. donations from individuals and legal entities;
7. wills;
8. other.

Art. 42. /1/ (Supplemented and amended 15.12.2012) The minimum membership fee shall be eight BGN, of which three BGN shall be deducted for the bodies at national level as contribution in favour of MB of BMA.

/2/ The regional associations shall set the exact amount of the membership fee taking account of the amounts set out in the preceding paragraph.

/3/ (Supplemented and amended 15.12.2012) Retired physicians with no additional income, unemployed physicians and permanently disabled physicians may be exempted from membership fees by a decision of the managing board of the regional association, in which case they shall be delisted from the register.

/4/ The managing boards of the regional associations shall arrange for the collection of membership fees and shall pay the deduction to the BMA budget at the end of each month.

Art. 42 a. /1/ The membership of physicians delisted from the register shall be restored upon payment of all amounts due until the time of delisting from the register.

/2/ The regional associations may charge a fee for issuance of certificates of permanent place of work in their territory to physicians, who are members of other associations. The amount of the fee may not be higher than the membership fee of the regional association for the period during which the person is going to work. The latter shall be recorded as period of validity of the certificate.

Art. 43. /1/ The funds of BMA shall be spent for the performance of its functions and tasks arising from LPOPD and the statute.

/2/ (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012, amended 08.05.2015) The General Assembly of BMA shall set the amount of the remuneration for the performance of their functions for the chairperson, the deputy chairpersons, the chairperson of the Accreditation Council and the secretary general of MB of BMA, which shall be calculated based on the minimum wage for the country. The remuneration shall be deemed as basic remuneration within the meaning of the Labour Code, if any of the persons enter into an employment contract with BMA. The amount of the remuneration for the chairperson of the Accreditation Council is equal to the amount of the remuneration for a deputy chairperson.

/3/ The establishment or participation of BMA in companies or foundations shall be subject to a decision of the General Assembly of BMA.

Art. 44. (Repealed 15.12.2012)

CHAPTER SIX. **National Framework Agreement** **(New 15.12.2012)**

Art. 44. /1/. The National Framework Agreement (NFA) is signed between MB of BMA and the Supervisory Board of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) pursuant to Art. 53 of the

Health Insurance Act (HIA) and Art. 5 and Art. 13 of LPOPD.

/2/. (Amended 08.05.2015) For the expert-level negotiations MB of BMA shall approve expert committees, composed of a representative of the MB of BMA and the members of Specialty Boards, and, for the specialized outpatient care – the members of the Specialized Outpatient Care Expert Council elected in accordance with terms and conditions set out in the rules approved by the MB. Other experts in particular fields may also be included in composition of the committees.

/3/. (new 08.05.2015) The Specialized Outpatient Care Expert Council shall be composed of a chairperson and 10 members elected by the BMA in accordance with terms and conditions approved by the MB of BMA. The Specialized Outpatient Care Expert Council shall participate in the negotiations on the NFA and at request of the MB of BMA, shall give opinions on draft legislation and other papers concerning the professional sphere of activity of specialized outpatient care. The chairperson of Specialized Outpatient Care Expert Council shall organize and manage its work as well as represent it before third parties in fulfilment of the functions assigned to him/her.

/4/. (Amended 08.05.2015) In the event of a controversy between experts in different specialty fields or between primary outpatient medical care, specialized outpatient care and hospital care experts, MB of BMA shall organize and conduct interdisciplinary meetings and shall draft minutes thereof. On matters for which no agreement was reached the decision shall be taken by MB of BMA.

/5/. (Amended 08.05.2015) The approved expert committees shall conduct negotiations at the expert level with representatives of NHIF. Bilateral minutes shall be signed for all parameters and indicators of NFA, on which agreement is reached. These matters shall not be subject to discussion during the negotiations between MB of BMA and NC of NHIF, but shall be directly reflected in NFA. Any matters on which no consensus is reached shall be recorded in the minutes and negotiated directly between MB of BMA and NC of NHIF. These negotiations must always be attended by representatives of the expert committees.

/6/. (Amended 08.05.2015) In the negotiation of prices and quantities for the hospital patient care part of the agreement the elected members of the management council at MB of BMA - three managing directors from each university, regional, municipal and private hospitals – shall be included in the composition of the expert committees on the various medical specialty fields.

/7/. (Amended 08.05.2015) In the course of the negotiations all minutes drafted and signed by the expert committees shall be published on the official website of BMA.

Art. 45. Once the expert-level negotiations between MB of BMA and NC of NHIF are completed the draft NFA and the Quantities and Prices Agreement shall be approved and signed/not signed in accordance with Art. 8, para. 6 hereof.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. The Bulgarian Medical Association shall have a round seal with the following inscription around the periphery: "BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION –MANAGING BOARD."

§ 2. The Association shall be bound by the signature of the chairperson or a member of the Managing Board authorized by him, and the seal of the Association shall always be affixed thereto.

§ 3. Matters not settled herein shall be resolved in accordance with the law, and insofar as they are not regulated by the law, shall be settled by a decision of the General Medical Assembly, the National Council or the Managing Board of the Bulgarian Medical Association.

§ 4. The Bulgarian Medical Association shall establish a central print body.

§ 5. (Amended and supplemented 15.12.2012) This Statute was adopted by the 32nd General Assembly of the Bulgarian Medical Association pursuant to Art. 6 of the Law on the Professional Organisations of Physicians and Dentists, as amended by the 44th, 47th, 52nd, 55th and 56th Extraordinary General Assembly of BMA.

§ 6 (Repealed 15.12.2012)

§ 7. (New, 15.12.2012) The regional associations of BMA shall hold General Meetings by the end of March 2013 and shall bring their statutes in line with this Statute.

§ 8. (New 15.12.2012) Regular reporting and election meetings of the RA of BMA shall be held by the end of January 2015

§ 9. (New, 15.12.2012) Not later than 9 May 2015 MB of BMA shall hold a regular reporting and election General Assembly, which shall elect the governing bodies of BMA pursuant to this statute.

§ 10. (New 08.05.2015) For newly established positions, the provisions regarding terms of office shall apply from the time a person is elected to hold the relevant post, regardless of the positions he/she occupied until then.

§ 11. (New, 15.12.2012) The provisions of this statute regarding the length and sequence of the terms of office in the managing bodies of BMA shall enter into force as from the following regular reporting and election meetings and General Assembly.

§ 12. (New, 15.12.2012). This statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and shall be binding on all members of BMA. The terms of office of the members of the managing bodies (at national and regional level), held hitherto, and their sequence shall be considered valid.

§ 13. (New, 15.12.2012) The national experts approved by MB of BMA shall set up a specialized expert committee under BMA pursuant to a decision of the 52nd General Assembly of BMA.

§ 14. (New 15.12.2012) The provision regarding the increase of the membership fee to eight BGN per month shall enter into force on 1 January 2013.

§ 15. Candidates for electable positions at the central and regional level shall fill in a statement for declaration of affiliation/non-affiliation to the state security and intelligence services of the Bulgarian People's Army, based on a model approved by the Managing Board. In the event that false data are found in the declaration of a candidate or an elected member of BMA, the Professional Ethics Committee and the Regional Professional Ethics Committee shall take a decision on the matter. MB of BMA and MB of the regional associations shall submit to the Committee on the Disclosure of Documents and Announcing Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens to the State Security and Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian People's Army the names of the members of the Managing Boards of the Regional Medical Associations for examination.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE MANAGING BOARD
OF THE BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:**

.....

(signature, seal)

(TSVETAN RAYCHINOV, MD)

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MANAGING BOARD OF THE BULGARIAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:**

.....
(signature)
(DIMITAR LENKOV, MD)

Checked against the verbatim record by:

Attorney-at-law Ivan Sotirov.....

Attorney-at-law Tsvetozar Mladenov.....

Stenographer: Tsveta Kyoseva