



Antwerp, may 21,2019

Dear Minister Ananiev,

Mr President – Members of the Parliament,

The Belgium Midwives Association was pleased to attend the annual meeting of the ICM, International Confederation of Midwives ([www.internationalmidwives.org](http://www.internationalmidwives.org)) for the Central European Region in Reykjavik on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

We welcomed the representation of the Alliance of Bulgarian Midwives and listened to their concerns. We were surprised that the Bulgarian colleagues are in need to go on industrial actions fighting for recognised Midwifery regulations and standards, the right to become Independent Professional Organisation and respectful work-conditions and pay.

Looking at the Sustainable Development Goals educated midwives are in the best position to provide qualified professional care to low risk pregnant mothers and their babies. The midwives are also by far the best placed clinicians to provide postnatal care including breastfeeding support and postnatal depression prevention and support.

As colleagues we support strongly that the Directive 2013/55/EU and amending Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and Council is implemented and respected in Bulgaria.

As member of the ICM we respect the vision and mission as accepted by 132 midwives' associations in 113 countries. The vision: ICM envisions a world where every childbearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn. The Mission: To strengthen Midwives' Associations and to advance the profession of midwifery globally by promoting autonomous midwives as the most appropriate caregivers for childbearing women and in keeping birth normal, in order to enhance the reproductive health of women, their new-borns and their families.

The Belgium Midwives Association urges you and the Members of the Parliament involved in the negotiation to enable midwives in Bulgaria to practice within their scope and competences in order to offer their support to the women and their families.

We believe that midwives and woman stand shoulder to shoulder to increase respectful maternity care. We contribute towards this to support the global standards for Basic Midwifery Education, ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation in response to requests from midwives, midwifery associations, governments, UN Agencies and other stakeholders.

The goal of these standards is to promote regulatory mechanisms that protect the women and families by ensuring that safe and competent midwives provide high standards of midwifery care to every woman and baby.

The aim of regulation is to support midwives to work autonomously within their full scope of practice. By raising the status of midwives through regulation the standard of maternity care and the health of mothers and babies will be improved.

Yours respectfully,

Debonnet Serena

electronic signature

Yours respectfully,



Debonnet Serena  
Board member BMA  
Board member ICM Central European Region