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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS**

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Country Report Hungary September 2011

Unfortunately there has been no dramatic improvement in the Hungarian Health system neither in the field of finance nor in preserving human resources. It has been proved that the Health Ministry is dependent on the Ministry of National Economy, thus further cuts have been implemented in the health sector.

The number of doctors and health workers leaving our country has further increased, so have the waiting lists to such extent that at some places emergency care is endangered. Compared to OACD countries Hungary spends one third less in GDP ratio on healthcare than the average, with only being Turkey behind us.

The centre-right government, that has been in power for a year now, is planning the revision of the Labour Code, which further increases the defencelessness of employees. Compared to the present situation the draft strongly worsens the situation of employees with employers in at least 150 sections. Practically, all means are taken out of the hands of trade unions, although these rights are guaranteed by international contracts.

The most intolerable change for doctors is the increase of the employee's responsibility to maximum level, therefore giving way to hospitals to shift off the compensations of lost cases where patients sued the hospital for damages and these compensations often reach tens of millions of Forints. This responsibility may only reach now the withdrawal of maximum 50% of one monthly wage once.

Because of the above mentioned problems our trade union MOSZ together with the Young Doctors' Association started a campaign similar to our Czech colleagues, where a number of our members have deposited their notice to quit, while others denied voluntary overtime work from 1st January 2012, unless the wage of young doctors reaches 200,000 HUF and senior doctors that of 300,000 HUF after tax.(800-1000 EUR)

According to a recent survey 3 to 6 thousand doctors might take part in this action.

The only success we have reached through the changes of law is that the rest period after a 24-hour shift must be paid by the employer, whereas these 8 hours were withdrawn from the payment of doctors being on on-call duty before.