



**FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES MEDECINS SALARIES
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS**

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F I D E S HALF-YEARLY REPORT
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Aside from the economic and financial crisis, currently dealt with by the Governments of EU Member States, the Republic of Slovenia has additionally been fighting the Government political crisis, which has intensified from month to month and doesn't seem to be stopping. For a while now, the Government has been in a deadlock because the necessary reforms (pension, health care, labour market and other reforms) that should revive the economy and prevent financial breakdown have mainly been refused, at referendums, if not before, which has clearly illustrated dissatisfaction of voters with the current Government. In the meantime, the Government coalition has fallen apart with striking resignations by numerous ministries, whether due to established irregularities in their work or out of their own interest or the interest of their parties... The last proposal concerning a 4 percent linear reduction of public sector salaries has failed in the parliamentary procedure. It should be emphasized that public sector salaries have been frozen for three years already and have realistically been reduced as compared to salaries in the economy.

The current situation being unfavourable for the necessary changes, the Ministry of Health opened to public discussion theses which indicate health care system development until the year 2020. This should represent the basis for the adoption of a new Health Care and Health Insurance Act. FIDES has already examined the material and will shortly state its position on the proposed content. Considering the »atmosphere« in the Parliament and Government, we reasonably doubt that the necessary legislation will take effect within the present mandate since preliminary elections have been the subject of more and more frequent discussions.

Bad economic situation and consequently financial problems related to central health care budget have forced the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia to adopt austerity measures. These are directly oriented towards health care providers. This year, public institutes will thus be allocated less money. The measure applies retroactively for the current year. The measure is very unilateral and non-stimulative for health care providers who in this period of time put everything into providing quality of health care services and shortening waiting times. Owing to this, some directors have already lowered the amount of money earmarked for the provision of continuous health care (reduction in the payment of overtime work), while others have announced the reduction of services and extension of waiting times.

An important step forward has been made by medical organisations (Medical Chamber of Slovenia, Slovenian Medical Association and FIDES), which have finally managed to prepare and publish the so

called standards and norms of medical work. They are published in an elegant brochure that will come into the hands of each physician accompanied with the recommendation for these standards and norms to be used shortly in everyday provision of health care. The document concerned being »of open nature«, it will be kept up to date according to new experience and findings, if need be. By finishing the document, we are ahead of the Ministry of Health and Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, which have planned to prepare respectively are in the process of preparing similar norms, yet probably not on the basis of expert safety and quality criteria for medical work but predominantly on the basis of financial calculations.

In any case, we are set for an exciting autumn, with potential preliminary elections or status quo, which, however, would not bring anything positive for the development and well-being of the State.

Ljubljana, 19 September 2011

FIDES Vice-President, Damjan Polh