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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS**

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NATIONAL REPORT SPAIN

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The evolution of the Spanish public healthcare since the last report is still marked by the sign of debt, which threatens the economic health of some European countries, including ours.

The pillars of the "welfare state" will crumble especially in education and of course, in healthcare. But our view (shared, we believe, by many Spanish people) is that the cuts should be in other expenses that do not affect so directly to the basic rights of the citizens.

The reduction on salaries has been going on since June 2010. A recent study of CEM estimates that last year we lost an average of 4.000€ euros per physician. Our salaries are blocked since then and for the end of this year 2011 we are sure that our extra pay will be reduced by half.

The deficit accumulated by the Spanish public health is around 15.000 million euros. The expenses of our healthcare system are increasing and we have to take into account that Spain dedicates 2 points less than other European countries, such as France or Germany, of its gross domestic product (GDP) to healthcare.

Cuts are being specially marked in regions such as Catalonia.

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN SIGHT

On the 20th of November general elections will be held in Spain and we are confident that the new government will respect what we have achieved in the recent months with the Spanish Ministry of Health.

In July the Forum of the Medical Profession (FPME) in which CESM takes part, signed an agreement with the government to work together on many outstanding issues by setting a priority agenda in order to address the historical claims of our collective.

In early September a new "State Board of Health" has been created to harmonize and solve the main issues of Spanish doctors.

We do not have money..... but the truth is that good ideas are costless and we have plenty of them to improve the Spanish Healthcare system in benefit of all physicians and the society in general.