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Doctors' Trade Union of Poland (DTUP – OZZL)
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National Report Poland: OZZL, Autumn 2021 **Report on the situation of doctors in Poland for FEMS Plenary Assembly**

Over the past five years, OZZL has sent nearly 30 requests to the president, prime minister, and health minister for meetings and talks. None of them have ever invited us to talks or negotiations.

In early July, professional chambers and trade unions of medical professions established a protest and strike committee. All these organizations were united by the refusal to agree to the amendment to the act on shaping minimum wages in health care, with which all health care workers do not agree.

As a result, on Saturday, September 11 this year, the protest and strike committee with a large participation of the OZZL organized together with other organizations the largest ever in Poland demonstration and a march of healthcare workers in Warsaw.

The following problems were considered to be the most important: increasing the financing of the public health care system to 8% of GDP in the next few years, increasing salaries to the level of the national average as in the EU, increasing employment in health care to the average level in the EU, abolishing health service limits, improving their quality and introducing the "no fault" principle.

Over 30-40 thousand health care workers from all over the country came to Warsaw. Numerous flags and banners, representing medical centers from all over Poland, were the best illustration of the fact that ill health is not a local matter, but the most systemic one.

All professions were represented at the demonstration - doctors, nurses and midwives, paramedics, physiotherapists, electroradiology technicians, laboratory diagnosticians and others. The protest march followed the trail next to the Ministry of Health, then at the Presidential Palace – then with a stop at the Parliament of Poland, to end near the Prime Minister's office.

Access to the area in front of the office was blocked by the police. In the vicinity of the office there was a car with a sound platform on which unions and chambers leaders performed. Unfortunately, these words were heard only by the walls of the prime minister's office and numerous passers-by. None of the government officials had the courage to approach the nearly 40 thousand protesting healthcare workers.

Delegates: Ryszard Kijak & Natalia Sot (in cooperation with Zdzisław Szramik, vice-chairman of OZZL)