

TCPU – NORTHERN CYPRUS COUNTRY REPORT

November 2025

With the participation of FEMS President Dr. Alessandra Spedicato and Vice President Dr. Renata Culinovic-Caic, a meeting and presentation were held in Nicosia on professional conditions in Europe and the healthcare system in Northern Cyprus.

December 2025

While medical schools continue to be opened in an uncontrolled manner and existing structural problems remain unresolved, a draft law was introduced aiming to regulate specialist training programs that had been initiated despite insufficient population size and a lack of qualified teaching staff.

Our union, together with CTMA and opposition parties, opposed the provision allowing admission to specialist training without an examination and informed the public about the serious risks this could create.

Despite all warnings, the draft law was passed through the parliamentary subcommittee and referred to the General Assembly. In response, a “black flag” protest was initiated, which received widespread attention across the country. As a result of strong public pressure, the draft was not passed by the General Assembly and was postponed to a later date.

Management and Staffing Processes

Following our efforts against the Ministry of Health’s attempts to control hospital management positions through temporary appointments, vacancies for permanent positions were officially announced. However, subsequent amendments to the examination regulations aimed to ensure political control over those to be appointed.

Our union has filed a case before the Constitutional Court against these regulations.

January 2026 – Physicians’ Rights and Strike Process

Our union decided to go on strike in response to the Ministry of Health’s attempt to extend physicians’ working hours without any improvement in salaries or compensation. The strike was met with high participation.

As a result of negotiations, a commitment was obtained to prepare a separate and specific law regulating physicians' working conditions and rights, as well as to implement certain legal improvements in the short term. Accordingly, the strike was suspended.

General Strike and Social Developments

A general strike was launched with the participation of all unions following the government's attempt to halt the legally mandated cost-of-living adjustments to salaries, using ongoing regional conflicts as justification.

During the process, serious tensions arose between the police, security forces, and the public. During the protests, demonstrators entered the parliamentary courtyard and the parliament building and continued their actions there.

On the fourth day of the general strike, our union declared a strike including emergency services (excluding red code cases), also due to the non-payment of physicians' additional working hour compensations.

In response, the government decided to suspend strikes in public healthcare services for 60 days. Despite this, our union continued its actions within the framework of civil disobedience.

As a result, the government was forced to withdraw the proposed legislative changes from the parliamentary agenda and enter into a process of negotiation with the unions.

Current Situation (2026)

Work on a dedicated law for physicians is ongoing. Due to the fact that 53% of public sector physicians are employed under contractual (temporary) status, our union has initiated the process of collective bargaining.