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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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ΕΥΡΩ ΑΙΚΟΣΙΙΕΥΛΛΟΓΟΓΟΣ ΔΙΕΥΟΥΝΤΩΝ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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NATIONAL REPORT TO THE AEMH BY THE PANHELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

August 2003

NATIONAL REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES OF THE AEMH

Country : Hellas

Name of the AEMH National Member : Panhellenic Medical Association

Number of Physicians working in State Hospitals :

There are approximately 21.000 physicians working in State Hospitals

Directors of the Clinic/Department (Level I) : 2.134

Deputy Directors of the Clinic/Department (Level II) : 1.418

Senior Registrars (Level III) : 3.791

Junior Registrars(Level IV) : 3.553

Senior Specialists (Level V) : 63

Specialists and Trainees specialists : 10.041

Number and size of Hospitals :

- a. Private Hospitals : 213 (15.808 beds approx.)
- b. Public/State Hospitals : 314 (44.300 beds approx.)
- c. University Hospitals : 7

Working Conditions : 40 hours per week apart from overtime duties.

Salary for different groups of physicians :

Mean basic salary of the hospital physicians, in approximate rates, is :

Directors of the Clinic/Dept. : 1300 €

Senior Registrars : 1100 €

Junior Registrars : 900 €

Trainees Specialists : 650 €

Please note that the various allowances (e.g. shift premiums, long service allowances, ward duty allowance etc) are not included.

The salary of the Hospital Doctors is considered inadequate at a national and European level.

The Panhellenic Medical Association during the period 2002 – 2003 conducted most important meetings with Health Institutions, Chairmen and Delegates of local Medical Associations.

A great joint effort was made by the Panhellenic Medical Association in collaboration with the National Centre of Emergency Care (EKAB), so that the emergencies can be dealt satisfactorily in the isolated geographically regions that lie in the islander cluster of Greece and need extraordinary and direct medical offer.

In the Region, where there is most intense problem in covering vacancies of medical staff in the Provincial Hospitals and Health Centres, the Panhellenic Medical Association have made proposals and lobby to the competent governmental Health Institutions to provide financial motives and to create a point system, similar to the system implemented in United Kingdom and the USA.

The Panhellenic Medical Association have made most important interventions to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Education, as well as to the Mass Media and the Press, regarding National Health System and its best application in the Hospitals.

Unfortunately, other advisers' proposals and opinions are taken into consideration and thus up-to-today there are not the expected satisfactory results. It has to be into consideration that the Chairman and the Members of the Board of the Panhellenic Medical Association are physicians working in several posts in the State Hospitals and in Social Security Organisations, thus their opinion is essential and thorough.

Since 1985 the Law on the National Health System has been applied, and until today it has been modified several times, provided it had not attributed satisfactory results. Thus, with the new Law 2001, 17 Regional Health Councils have been established, with the possibility to function as smaller, autonomous Ministerial Bodies, as they have developed administrative and financial responsibilities.

These days, the Minister of Health replaces most of the Chiefs of those Councils, provided that they have already completed 18 months of ineffective operation of the institution and failing in satisfactory function of the Hospitals.

During this period the Ministry of Health launches a pilot program concerning Health Card, which will provide the possibility for a high quality healthcare for the patients in Hospitals.

In February 2003, were the elections for the Board of the Panhellenic Medical Association have taken place, during which the President Dr. Emmanuel Kalokerinos and the General Secretary Dr. George Karantanas were re-elected.

In his statement addressed to the media, the President reported that he will seek via the Panhellenic Medical Association with all his forces, the resolution of problems that concern Hospital Doctors, Private and Self-employed Doctors, as well as the doctors in the Social Security Organisations, to the benefit of medical

services of high quality towards greek population. He also pointed out the great problems that have been caused due to the inadequate function of the NHS with adverse impact in the medical and paramedical services provided in the State Hospitals.

An unpleasant impression and a deep distress was caused among the delegates of the Panhellenic Medical Association and the greek delegates to the CPME as the anti-war proposal – protest put forward by Dr. Antypas, during the meeting of the CPME Board, did not receive the proper attention. The anti-war protest addressed towards International Society and the International Bodies, regarding the calamitous wars in Iraq, Israel, Palestine etc., that have caused thousands of victims among non-combatant population. And on the other hand the statement of a colleague (which was adopted) that there was not enough time and information to vote for the protest against the war, an unacceptable statement offending the whole Body of European Doctors.

The European Doctors apart from the human and medical obligation, have moral and ethical obligation to safeguard with abnegation each human life. This is indeed declared by the principles of the new European Union Constitution, i.e. “to respect human life and not deprive anyone from it”.