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ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ**

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## SLOVENSKÁ LEKÁRSKA KOMORA

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### National Report Slovakia – 2007

#### Wages increase

As a result of protesting actions organised by Doctor's Labour Association in April 2006, the wages of doctors working in hospitals increase by 10% in June and by another 10% in December 2006. However, the wages remains still very low and medical organisations in Slovakia are demanding another increase by at least 20% in this year.

#### A new government

The Slovak Government established after general elections in June 2006 is created mainly by social democrats. This means the health care system in Slovakia is under reconstruction again. Patients' co-payment for hospital stay (about 1.5 ECU per day) was abolished. An effort of government to support the bigger state hospitals is evident. The cooperation between Ministry of Health Care and the Slovak Medical Chamber has improved comparing to the previous era.

#### How many hospitals does Slovakia need?

According to the *Report on the hospitals network optimization* published by Ministry of Health Care, there are too many hospitals in Slovakia (76 hospitals for 5.3 mil. citizens). Some of them especially the smaller ones can barely guarantee desirable quality of health care. Regional Office of WHO in Europe says Slovakia was leading country in EU with 6.4 acute beds per 1000 citizens comparing to 5.2 – EU 10 average in the year 2005. There were 36 805 acute hospital beds in Slovakia in 2006 year. Moreover, the debt of hospitals reached approximately 6.7 bill. SKK (350 mil. ECU) in December 2006. Therefore Ministry of Health Care prepares steps to reduction of at least several hospitals in an effort to shift more financial resources to the biggest hospitals. The proposal is to reduce number of acute hospital beds by 6 193. The issue has been widely discussed and consensus has not been reached yet.

#### Shortage of specialists

The emigration of qualified specialists from Slovak hospitals still persists. Since May 2004 as many as 1402 doctors have asked for certification of diplomas and most of them were supposed to leave Slovakia. But estimated number of those who are working abroad is even higher, because of mutual recognising of qualification between Czech Republic and Slovakia. After introduction of principles of EWTD into the Slovak law system in July 2007 the expected deficit of doctors in Slovak hospitals will be about 2 200.

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