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ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ  
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING  
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ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΙΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΙΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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Greece – National Report

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During the last two years a series of measures have been implemented in Greece by the Greek Government, European Union, European Central Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. These measures have been very painful for the vast majority of the population as they include a big cut down in salaries and pensions both in public and private sector, a high increase in taxes of all types, direct and indirect and a further attack on the working relations in the direction of more flexibility and less protection from discharge. One of the most prominent results of this policy is a very high rate of unemployment (21,7 % - February 2012) especially among the women and young.

A direct consequence of the high rate of unemployment is a high rate of people without any income or public insurance. On the other hand, in Greece, a high percentage of economic immigrants have no legislation papers. Nevertheless, the government decided that everybody in the country, including the vulnerable, should pay fee to access a public hospital. This measure leads a high percentage of the population to a new “no health care at all” era...

The government promoted an absolute restriction of any new employment in all public services including hospital and primary care health centres, reduced the operational costs of the NHS by more than 50 %, and reduced the number of hospital beds (planning includes a final cut by 10000 / 46000). 2012 finance of prevention programmes such as programmes against AIDS and IV drug use has been reduced (49 %, between 20 and 33 % respectively) compared to 2011. Greek society experiences a direct increase of the rate of suicides (22 %), HIV infection (more than 50 %, 1100 % among IV drug users), etc.

Shortage of nurses and doctors, especially young consultants has always been a reality in Greece, but during 2012 has reached high numbers. At the same time thousands of young doctors and nurses flee to other European countries (6000 in Germany only).

During the last two years Greek hospital doctors have seen their salary reduced by more than 40 %, have seen their retirement day going very far away, have been experiencing an every day shortage of hospital materials, even the more cheap, have seen their young colleges going abroad, taking with them any hope for working hours reduction, have been struggling to keep high educational standards, but, over all, have been fighting for the right of the poor and vulnerable to have free access to health care, for the Greek Public Health Sector to survive this hurricane.