



**ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΙΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΙΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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NATIONAL REPORT: BULGARIA

Dear colleagues,

In the time since our last meeting BgMA remained active in all the areas set by the statutes. During the past 7 months, there were quite a lot of events in Bulgaria that changed the political life and public attitude, probably for a long period of time. At the beginning of the new 2013 the growing economic crisis in our country developed into a serious political crisis resulting in downfall of the government, dissolution of Parliament and scheduling of preterm elections. The caretaker government appointed by the President of Bulgaria has limited powers and its mandate ends with the setting up of a new government at the end of May.

Against this background our organization continued to meet its obligations and remained the only real reference in the healthcare system, a "beacon" emitting continuous and correct signals to the society and its members.

Main areas of activity:

- **The National framework agreement.** After successful negotiations that took place through the summer and fall of 2012, the management of NHIF last-minute changed very important conditions in the Agreement entering a large amount of new activities with insecure financial coverage. This led to denial of signing the Agreement by the Medical Association. In return, the National Health Insurance Fund canceled all the good outcomes of the negotiations and brought them back to the beginning of last year position. Now, we live in complete anarchy and lack of a subject with which to launch new negotiations. We are looking forward to the elections.

- **Regarding the elections,** we have decided to start negotiations with each party registered to participate in the elections for the parliament. We identified the basic guidelines in health development for the next mandate period with regard to financing, regulation of healthcare activities, protection of doctors from criminal offenses at their workplace, optimization of the system for continuous medical education and training, etc. By the end of April, we have signed agreements with almost all major political parties. Our impression is that this initiative is welcome. We hope this is not just an election ploy to parties. We'll see the results in a few months.

- The intensive work to restore the system of postgraduate training goes on. The Accreditation Council launched by the BgMA started to function very well. A large part of the necessary amendments for optimal performance in this sphere were adopted and entered in the Statutes of our organization.

- As regards the incomes in the healthcare system, there is no positive change, except perhaps the fact that we didn't suffer the huge reduction in the incomes observed in other areas.

- During the mass civil protests against the corrupt political system and against the monopolies in the country that led to the fall of the government, there were no serious objections to the intrinsic medical performance of the physicians. The increased public criticism takes into consideration the heavy and low paid work of the medical teams. Probably, in the emerging new political conditions the efforts to introduce fair means of allocation of the financial resources will prove more successful.