



**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  
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES  
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN  
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVNIKOV  
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV  
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΨΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΙΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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# PORTUGAL REPORT

In May 2012, while negotiating with the unions a salary scale, the government did publish a diploma announcing a public tender of 2.5 million hours of medical services given to external companies for the lowest price. The contracts with these companies carried a high risk to patients safety including:

- making it more difficult to control and verify doctors' professional qualifications and allowing the same doctors to work consecutive days in different hospitals in emergency services not respecting the periods of rest.

Considering this inadmissible provocation, unions broke negotiations that were taking place with great difficulty and declared a strike for two days with the support of the Portuguese Medical Association. Also letters of support from AEMH and FEMS sent to the Prime-Minister and to the Minister of Health had great repercussion in the media.

Thus, on 11 and 12 July, more than 95% of doctors paralyzed the activity, maintaining only minimal services for urgent care situations. Also on the 11th, four thousand physicians from all over the country, rallied ahead of the Ministry of Health, completely filling the street.

This strike had great support and understanding of public opinion because doctors could explain that our struggle was for quality of care and patients safety, and the Government, already with a low popularity rating, was forced to return to the negotiating table with unions. Since then, the negotiating process has progressed , and an agreement was reached on matters in negotiation of the new Agreement Collective - Salary Table and reorganization of medical work.

This new regime, which came into force on 1 January of the current year, only applies to doctors who start functions; for those already in the career, the transition is voluntary, while maintaining the same conditions if not choose.

But since then, there have been, by the administrations, various outrages to the agreement; either delaying the transition to the new regime to doctors who have been expressed their intention to move, or trying to impose more hours in the Emergency or more users to the doctors of general medicine.

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