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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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ΕΥΡΩ ΑΙΚΟΣΙΠΙΕΥΛΛΟΓΟΓΟΣ ΔΙΕΥΟΥΝΤΩΝ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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EVROPSKO ZDRUŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVNIKOV**

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Since September 2003 some queries concerning Health Politics emerged. The lack of specialists, their increasing aging and the non-admission of new doctors has deepened the medical need felt during the last decade.

As result, some medical emergencies, namely paediatric emergencies, had to reduce their services to the public. The Government decided to hire Family doctors to assist in paediatric emergencies, decision opposed by Ordem dos Médicos, which suggested to set public contests to hire Paediatricians.

The Government continued not to pay for the extra work as agreed previously with the medical syndicates, leading to several hospital strikes in order to see the law enforced.

The Health Ministry project to end hospital waiting lists is developing as planned, although the number of patients is increasing. With the Health Ministry refusing the suggestions of Ordem dos Médicos, there is no on-sight solution for the problem.

Similarly, with the turning of public hospitals into joint-stock companies, the effective conversion of individual contracts, that don't respect basic ethical and deontological rules as well as any medical training prevision, has given rise to strong discussions. It is also feared that patients may be discriminated according to the "most profitable" disease(s) for the medical unit.

Due to the death of two patients caused by anaesthetic complications in a public hospital on the last weeks, the efficiency of some generic drugs was objected. Some anaesthetists as well as the Pharmacovigilance Commission from the central region had already given alert to this situation, although without any preventive measure from the Drug and Pharmacy Institute, the public entity responsible for this area.

The Government, on the contrary, decided to suspend the anaesthetist concerned, although the experts have concluded that the *legis artis* was respected.

Ordem dos Médicos is negotiating with the Health Ministry a new law on medical internship, which unites the existing basic and specialist training stages and entitles this body to evaluate the services' training capacities and competence.

The Government decided to create Medicine courses in Azores and Madeira, acting against the position of Ordem dos Médicos, as this believes there is neither conditions nor a competent lecturing body, despite the agreements with other universities.