



**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
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΙΑΪΙΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΙΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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GLOBAL POLITICAL SITUATION

After the general elections of 2011 took up a new coalition government pledged to fulfill the memorandum agreed with the Troika (European Commission, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank), which has resulted in great austerity measures, with deep decrease in the purchasing power of Portuguese people, rising unemployment and bankruptcy of many companies.

HEALTH POLICY

The new Health Minister, Paulo Macedo, has developed a policy of major economic constraint in order to save money on health. These measures have led to major financial difficulties in Hospitals with delays often exceeding two years of payments to suppliers, which meant that some of them just provide products with a guarantee of immediate payment.

The change in drug policy is creating some destabilization in the industry with Portuguese pharmaceutical companies being forced to fire workers to survive economically.

The Ministry of Health introduced very substantial increases in user fees paid by patients in the NHS for each medical act, which has hindered and decreased patient access to health care.

WORKING CONDITIONS OF DOCTORS

As a result of restrictive policies in the health sector many doctors are leaving the National Health Service, asking for early retirement or moving to the private sector, creating difficulties in some health units and services either in hospital or in primary care.

The wages of doctors decreased significantly as a result of a 10% cut in wages from January 2011, the non-payment of the 13th and 14th months (holidays and Christmas), which represent 15% of the income, since this year and the reduction in overtime, both in number of hours worked and the amount paid by the hour (representing in most cases about 25%). Consequently a high percentage of physicians saw their income reduced by 50% compared to 2010.

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