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EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
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ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
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ЕВРОПЕЙСКА АСОЦИАЦИЯ НА СТАРШИТЕ БОЛНИЧНИ ЛЕКАРИ**

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New Act on the Working Conditions

The Slovak Parliament adopted new Act on the working conditions in September 2007. This act is in accordance with the Directive 2003/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time. Its implementation brought more protection for hospital doctors in Slovakia especially with respect to resting after night work but on the other hand it clearly revealed the lack of specialist in hospitals. It is estimated that there is need for another 2600 doctors in hospital departments throughout Slovakia.

Slovak Medical Chamber

There are 20 699 doctors registered and providing medical care in Slovakia. 16191 of them are members of the Slovak Medical Chamber which is also the body responsible for registration of all doctors. The organisation covers both employees as well as privately working physicians.

One of the agendas of SMC in 2007 was the doctors' labour value. President of the FEMS Dr. Claude Wetzel as a guest of the General Assembly of SMC in October 2007 showed in his presentation differences existing among European countries with respect to doctors' income. SMC can only agree that better income and better working conditions abroad are the main causes of the abovementioned lack of doctors in Slovakian hospitals.

Doctors' salaries

10% increase of salaries of doctors working in state hospitals (administered by Ministry of Health) has already been done in February 2008. This hasn't happened neither in private nor in municipal hospitals. The SMC is therefore concerned about keeping of equal opportunities for both state and private providers of health care in Slovakia. Ministry of Health intends to improve performance of major (state) hospitals rather than small (private) ones. Bigger hospitals have usually better contracts with health insurance companies and many of them are undergoing the process of ISO certification.

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