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The Spanish public health, which employs 80% of the doctors, continues suffering the effects of the economic crisis.

The deficit of the state, in other words, the difference between income and expenses in 2012, exceeded 7% (the highest of the OECD) and the public debt has increased up to 80% (and will follow this path in the upcoming years).

The direct consequence is that wages has been frozen twice this year. In addition, most of the regions (17 autonomous communities in our country) have implemented cuts provided by state-level regulations. This progressive implementation depends on the professional group to which the professional belongs, and it has mostly affected physicians, some of whom have seen their wages diminish by 30%.

Another negative effect of the current situation is that after years of full employment in the health sector, unemployment is now a major problem. Over 4,000 of our graduates are unemployed.

Moreover, and given the lack of resources, some regions have started to "experiment" with what they call "private management" of the public health system. The idea is to save money but professionals do not see it clear, in fact, no studies have been able to prove it. The international experience in this regard, has shown that it can be even more expensive.

Madrid is the most advanced region in this process (privatizing the management in 6 hospitals and in the 10% of primary care centers). Against this privatizing process several strikes have been held earlier this year, and there will be more in May and June. Madrid is not the only autonomous region following this path. Also Andalusia and Valencia have made huge efforts in the same direction.



Our union, since February, is in negotiations with the Ministry of Health trying to find sustainable formulas to maintain the Spanish Health System.

Another negotiating issue with the Ministry of Health is the "clinical management units", trying to involve physicians more actively in the management of these units.

CESM continues fighting for a legal framework that allows the self-regulation of the profession.

General Secretary of CEMS, Francisco Miralles

