



**Fédération Européenne  
des Médecins Salariés**  
European Federation  
of Salaried Doctors

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**БЪЛГАРСКИ  
ЛЕКАРСКИ СЪЮЗ**

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**BULGARIAN  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## BULGARIAN NATIONAL REPORT

Dear colleagues,

Since our last meeting in Budapest, the BgMA has continued its activity in all areas set in the Statute of the Association, despite the protracted political crisis, unabated even now.

During this period the economic situation of the country may be assessed as very worrying. The production decline and the unemployment rise rate continue, though at minimal rates. To this, we must also add the unfavorable trends in healthcare:

- Poorly planned by the previous management of the system expenditures, especially the part covering the last 2 months;
- Use of the accumulated financial reserve of the healthcare sector to balance the country general budget, thus taking away the opportunity to use it for health purposes;
- Poorly organized system of postgraduate training;
- The negative trend of young and well-trained doctors and nurses leaving for Western Europe remains unchanged.

In the beginning of the summer, the new parliament which was elected in the early elections on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013, launched its work. Despite the great disapproval towards it, at its outset of work the parliament approved the

long-awaited legislative amendment whereby aggression against doctors is criminalized. This is an indisputable success of the leadership of the BgMA, which has been paving the way for this change for more than 3 years.

Due to the late completion of institutional teams, the negotiations on the next framework agreement started quite late - about four months after the usual start in other years. The first formal talks were moderately optimistic because, on one hand, all believe in the need for change offered by the BgMA, but on the other, they are afraid the ongoing crisis will not allow for good financial planning.

During the pre-election situation in April we started an initiative unique for our reality - we made pre-election agreements with all political parties. These agreements were actively used by the party activists for their purposes. Now - five months after the elections, we have the opportunity to request insistently implementation of election promises. Otherwise, the ruling parties will bear the negative effects of unfulfilled promises. The first analysis of the agreement shows an undeniable promise fulfilled – namely, criminalizing aggression against doctors at work. In so far, as regards the other clauses of the agreement, there is lack of any development.

The operation to restore the system of postgraduate training is ongoing. The Accreditation Council which BgMA has established operates well. A large part of the necessary amendments to the Articles of our Association for optimal performance in this area have been adopted.

In regard to earnings acquired by the health professionals, there are no positive developments except may be the fact that the healthcare system doesn't experience the huge reduction in the earnings happening in other sectors.