

Date:	30-04-2014	Document:	F14-025 EN
Title:	National Report Czech Republic LOK-SCL		
Author:	Dr. Martin Engel - chairman of the Czech Doctors' Trade Union (LOK-SCL)		

Report on the Czech health care situation (October 2013 – April 2014)

The early parliamentary elections brought great losses for the Civic Democrats (-37 seats) and TOP 09 (-15 seats) who had previously formed the coalition government. The election result showed that people want change. The narrow victory won the former opposition party [Czech Social Democratic Party](#) (ČSSD;50 seats), followed by the [Action of Dissatisfied Citizens](#) movement (ANO;47 seats) led by billionaire of Slovak origin Andrej Babis. However, this result is insufficient to get a majority in the Parliament. Therefore the third coalition partner became the Christian and Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-ČSL). The ČSSD, ANO and KDU-ČSL now have a 111 majority of votes in the 200-seat lower house of parliament.

The coalition agreement contains key points of the Czech Doctors' Trade Union (LOK-SCL) requirements :

- establishment of a network of non-profit hospitals;
- changes in postgraduate medical education;
- reduction of corruption;
- health workers salary increase.

The Czech constitution sets no time limits with which the president must appoint a new prime minister if his initial nominee fails win a vote of confidence. President Zeman has chosen to sit on his hands and the caretaker government could simply continue in office, as a 'government in resignation' until the appointment on the end of January this year. Several meetings were held with the new Minister of Health, and we agreed on most of the discussed points. Extremely important is the continuous monitoring of compliance. The most pressing problems need to be solved urgently: Repayment of funds into the health system, which were drawn primarily through increased VAT and were not compensated by the previous government.

The first step is increase in insurance payments for those who are state-insured. Also, major changes regarding postgraduate education must be done immediately to ensure that the new graduates don't flee by hundreds in German or English-speaking countries. Deepening personal devastation and lack of money are destroying our health care system the most. We also want the Act on public non-profit hospitals to be submitted this year. Health workers salary increase we expect next year.

So far the situation is more positive than in the previous eight years, but we must not be naive and passively wait for changes. On the contrary, we must actively participate on the changes, because the influence of the Czech Medical Chamber and the Czech Doctors' Trade Union is now significantly higher than it used to be.

Prague, April 28, 2014

Dr. Martin Engel - chairman of the Czech Doctors' Trade Union (LOK-SCL)

FEMS Permanent Secretariat: Rue Guimard 15, B-1040 Brussels/ Belgium
Tel.+32 27 36 60 66, Fax +32 27 32 99 72, e-mail: info@fems.net, <http://www.fems.net>