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Czech health care October 2014 - April 2015

In early 2015 the basic salary increased by 3.5% for all state employees and by 5% for health workers, although our requirement is at least 10%. The salary increase should serve as one of the stabilization measures against mass exodus of doctors abroad. Another stabilizing factor should be the law of postgraduate education. It has been in the process of being written for more than one year and now is going through the comment procedure.

We find the rate of change very slow and mass exodus of Czech doctors abroad continues. The existing draft law on non-profit medical institutions does not meet our expectations by far. It does not solve integrated income for all hospital employees. So far there is still a difference in salary between the state and private hospitals.

Czech Doctors' Trade Union priorities for the next calendar year 2016:

- a salary increase of at least 10%;
- an enactment of non-profit medical institutions;
- reduction of overtime in accordance with the European directive.

We negotiate our requirements with the Minister of health and with the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. Beginning in January 2016 we are ready to work only the mandatory 150 hours if our demands are not met. This would cause a big problem in providing continuous health care.

I will inform of any further development in the autumn.

Prague, April 15, 2015

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