



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

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AUTUMN REPORT AUSTRIA - FEMS/EJD

1. WORKING TIME OF HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS - NEGOTIATIONS ON WAGES IN THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL PROVINCES

The legal amendment of the Krankenanstalten-Arbeitszeitgesetz KA-AZG (Hospital Working Hours Act) followed months of negotiations on wage schemes in the provinces, which have now been successfully completed.

After tough renegotiations, Vienna has recently managed to settle the issue and reach an agreement; the implementation of the Hospital Working Hours Act of the Vienna Hospital Association (Wiener Krankenanstaltenverbund) had been a struggle since at the start of the year.

2. MEDICAL TRAINING REGULATION 2015

On 1st June 2015 the new Medical Training Regulation 2015 has come into force.

The General Assembly of the Austrian Medical Chamber enacted this regulation, which covers training content and training certificates (KEF and RZ-VO), on 19th June 2015. It regulates new training content and individual levels of training as well as their documentation in training certificates. In future all general practitioners and specialists in Austria are to be educated on the basis of this regulation.

This decision results from the initiation of the legislator and the Ministry of Health to amend the Austrian Medical Law and the Medical Training Regulation respectively, and effectively brings the formal reform process to an end.

Furthermore, fundamental changes to training certificates, due to the new structural changes to the medical training as well as various medical advances, are currently in progress.

3. APPLICATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRAINING POSTS

It has become possible, as of July 2015, to apply for the recognition of training institutions as well as the determination of training posts, electronically through an online application. All necessary forms and documents required for the application are listed online (training- and personal structure, training concept etc.) and can now be found on the homepage of the Austrian Medical Chamber.

The person responsible for the training institution has to inform the Austrian Medical Chamber within a month of any changes concerning the start, variation, break, extent or completion of training, electronically through an application. This programme allows for the announcement of training posts and simultaneously reviews their validity. In addition, it is

possible to report doctors regardless of their doctor identifier number. The programme also contains a search filter which provides a quicker way to find notifications. Moreover doctor-, training post- and notification history can be displayed.

4. TTIP („TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP“) – FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Austrian Medical Chamber welcomes the recent decision of the EU, which stated that the health care system will be excluded by the TTIP. This corresponds with the demand of the Austrian Medical Chamber, as illustrated in a letter directed to the EU delegation of Austria, at the beginning of July 2015.

From the perspective of the Austrian Medical Chamber, free trade agreements must not compromise the fast paced access to healthcare and the high level of patient safety in Austria. It is crucial to protect the national sovereignty as well as the high quality- and safety standards in Austria as well as Europe.

The participation of the TTIP in the area of healthcare would jeopardize the right of European nation states of self-regulation. This is particularly applicable to national/European healthcare standards such as the processing of harmful substances or the approval of pharmaceuticals or medical devices.

Furthermore, the protection of investment must not lead to the degradation of healthcare standards. The Austrian Medical Chamber subsequently represents the view that the investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS) should be rejected. The claim for damages has to occur in the ordinary and national way through the legislator of the state in which the investment has taken place or rather in which market the product is to be launched.

5. REFUGEES

The Austrian Medical Chamber is eager to expedite the cooperation of public bodies, as well as the integration of doctors into the Austrian system, and wishes to simplify the ad-hoc activity of doctors without nostrification (process which allows for your medical degree to be recognised as equivalent with Austrian standards by an Austrian University) for simple activities such as first aid, primary care and interpretation. Furthermore, asylum seekers are to be used in non-medical areas, such as consulting and prevention, while the process of recognition of their medical education is ongoing.