



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

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NATIONAL REPORT

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Following the legislative elections held last October, the coalition of right which had ruled the country in the last four years, although being the most voted force, lost the absolute majority it held in Parliament; having been nominated to form government, its program was rejected.

As a result, and after negotiations, there has been an understanding between the left forces that came to allow the formation of a Socialist Party government with parliamentary support of the Communist Party, the Left Bloc and Green Party.

The current Minister of Health is a physician with training in public health and extensive experience in management of several hospitals.

Among the various measures already taken, we highlight the creation of three national coordinations - for the reform of Primary Health Care, Hospitals and Continuing Care.

The Government's relations with unions, although still at an early stage, creates a potential for a fruitful dialogue and leading to overtaking many of the disputes that have opposed the Administration of Services and doctors, as well as the implementation of publicly announced measures.

At the moment, one of the main problems that we are discussing has to do with the specialized training of young doctors; according to some currents of opinion, Portugal already has more than enough doctors and the Medical Association believes that the training capacities will be exhausted, so it is inevitable that not everyone can access expertise.

Instead, the unions understand that there are still serious medical needs in the country and firmly oppose to the existence of undifferentiated doctors, which only serve to create a cheap labor army.

The two Unions (FNAM and SIM) continue with converging actions in key aspects of defending the interests of doctors, participating in various negotiating tables with the Government of the Republic, the Autonomous Regions and Public-Private Partnerships.

May, 2016