



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

Date:	02-05-2017	Document:	F17-017 EN
Title:	National Report Poland		
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National Report Poland
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Report on the state of public health care and the medical profession in Poland National Report Poland 2017 OZZL

As an official propaganda says, Poland will continue to work on a comprehensive healthcare reform, including a bill on basic healthcare, paramedics service, liquidation of the National Health Fund and increasing state financing to 6% of GDP from current 4,3%, what is the lowest level among European countries.

In **OZZL** opinion, it is just only a blarney and wishful thinking of our government and our Health Minister Konstanty Radziwiłł. Some of you know Konstanty Radziwiłł in person. During eight years he held the post of the president of Medical Chamber in Poland, he was also a president of CPME. Very often we acted together: the president of OZZL Krzysztof Bukiel and the president of Medical Chamber Konstanty Radziwiłł, shoulder to shoulder. We fought for better working conditions for doctors, we fought for better salary for doctors.

But since Radziwiłł became Health Minister (it happened in November 2015), he turned his mind completely and he became a quite different person, who deny oneself. Now he answers that the government has no money for improve working conditions, for rising salary, for nothing. He says that we need many years to achieve these goals and we have to wait patiently. In the meantime he tries to implement faked reforms, which will bring more damage than benefits.

Recently the government has passed the act on the hospital network. In the opinion of **Employers of Poland** (OZZL divides this opinion), contrary to the government's statements, it will adversely affect the accessibility of medical services (the draft is controversial even among members of the government). The act excessively privileges public entities at the expense of private ones. It may also lead to "a decrease in the quality of medical services". Employers of Poland have long drawn attention to this threat. We expect patients to experience the restricted availability of healthcare, as well as the threat of bankruptcy for many medical entities deprived of financing.

Such a danger is acknowledged not only by employers, healthcare organizations and unions, but also by Minister Radziwiłł's own colleagues from the government.

It is not true that lump sums will improve the financial conditions of hospitals – quite the contrary. Hospitals will not receive money for services over the limit included in the lump sum. At the same time, they will be required to provide full medical care without admission limits – all year round.

The network will prevent private entities from using the 9 percent of contracted funds which will remain outside the network. The Minister has taken great care to ensure that the criteria for choosing offers make contracts unattainable for any private hospital.

Moreover, the act is most likely in conflict with the Strategy for Responsible Growth – which draws attention to the need for changes in healthcare, particularly the insufficient flexibility of spending (in part due to demographic changes), the need to improve the quality of medical services, management and control procedures. The draft of the act in question does not answer challenges presented in the Strategy in any way, shape or form. In the current system, the Minister has a budget reserve which he can use if need arises. The currently proposed system includes no such mechanism. The Ministry is depriving itself of the capacity to effectively address healthcare issues.

According to **Employers of Poland**, the hospital network will completely eliminate private investors from healthcare. The announcement of the planned changes alone has resulted in restriction of investment to areas unaffected by the reform – Basic Medical Care (POZ). It also means that the Ministry of Economic Development has to look for a lot of funds in the budget to finance investments from public money. We are talking about billions of zloty. The relation of the network to the map of medical needs is also unclear. Failure to address those needs may result in restricted access to EU funds. The act on the hospital network in its current form could cause chaos, damage and pain for patients.

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