



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

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The situation in the Czech healthcare system from October 2022 to April 2023

In the autumn 2022 for the first time, there was no agreement on increasing the salary scales at the central level, so the negotiations moved to individual hospitals. In a very small number of hospitals, there was no increase at all, in most there was an increase of 4-6%. In some hospitals, the increase was even higher around 10%.

Our negotiations with the Ministry of Health are complicated and not very successful. In order to bring the budget deficit under control, the current government has even initiated significant cut to mandatory pension increases scheduled for June 2023. The government also plans to reduce the valorisation formula of payments for state insured persons. This would cause a further reduction of money for the health sector.

Inflation in the Czech economy (18%) is one of the highest among the EU member states. Instead of effectively fighting this inflation, the government only reduces the legitimate claims of the people that arise from such circumstances.

At this time, the conciliation process for next year's hospital payments began. We have had talks with the employers' representatives and announced our demand for a pay rise of at least 10% for next year, which should help to maintain income levels in the face of the huge inflation mentioned above.

To make things worse, health insurance companies are planning to take over the management of the health care system (the American model from the beginning of the millennium - the so-called Kaiser permanent).

Unfortunately, the employees are still very passive, but I believe that we will be able to activate them if necessary.

Prague, 12th April 2023

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