



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

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Madrid, 13 April 2023: with respect to the previous report of September 2022 and in relation to the situation of the **COVID19 pandemic**, the Ministry of Health continues to provide official figures once a week, so that as of 31 March the total number of confirmed cases notified in Spain is **13,798,747**, with 3,130,036 cases in people over 60 years of age and 120,426 deaths reported.

As for vaccination, 110,017,922 doses of the vaccine have been **delivered**, 105,733,220 doses have been administered and there are 40,735,254 people with the complete schedule.

In this sense, practically all protective measures against the virus have been eliminated, including the obligation to wear a **mask** in transport, leaving only its use as mandatory in **health centers and pharmacies**.

Regarding health and trade union news, CESM has maintained a high activity in recent months. One of the issues was the celebration of a **Spanish-Portuguese conference** about the profession (there is a lack of doctors, they are two countries without a specialty of Emergencies and medical demography data indicate that in 2028 between 4,000 and 11,000 additional specialists could be needed). Also, the campaign to defend the need for a **unified protocol for the adaptation of the job in pregnant doctors**. The warning from the Forum of the Medical Profession, of which CESM it is part, that the lack of **doctors is not solved** as the Ministry intends, **increasing the number of places in the faculties of Medicine**, especially when there is a significant deficit of teachers and if this is not accompanied by a parallel increase in Specialized Health Training (MIR) places.

In addition, Spain has experienced since October – and will continue in the coming months – a **wave of calls for medical strikes**. The unsustainable situation has caused most of the autonomous communities to have called or continue to call strikes as a last option to improve the conditions of doctors, who after 3 years of pandemic have seen how they worsened even more. Although at **first the protests were especially of Primary Care**, little

by little the professionals of the rest of the **care levels** have been **added**, making visible the medical discontent and warning of the complex situation that the National Health System is going through.

The lack of professionals (for moving to other communities or surrounding countries, for early retirement or abandonment) deepens the work overload they endure daily, with agendas of more than 60 patients. Doctors have reduced salaries that are not recovered, a worrying increase in attacks on doctors (38% more in 2022) and with a significant loss of purchasing power, which has led to important mobilizations in the streets. The main common achievements in the strike exit agreements signed have been the limitation of agendas, more voluntary and after-hours unloading schedules or an increase in the price of the on-call hour.

All this has led to a genuine **trade union** of all the professional regional unions to demand basic issues regarding the need for a **specific statute** for the doctor, the creation of a **category A +** according to the level of studies required. Also, to ask for real solutions to the **lack of doctors and the MIR (Specialized Training) problem** and to demand that adapt **the number of specialist training places to the real needs of the** health system.

The **problem of Specialized Health Training** continues to be a workhorse for CESHM, since these days the future new specialists choose a place, and the Ministry of Health has eliminated the informative meetings to which it had committed the previous year. And the doctor's option, once again, for a place allocation is not in real time as we defend, and that entails, as we have seen, that the number of places that are deserted increases (more than 200 in the previous call, especially in destinations as needed as Family and Community Medicine). This year, again, there will be shifts of 400 applicants to choose their place that, not being in real time, this will cause not only that many are left without choosing once awarded. They are deserted by the non-incorporation or abandonment of the resident.

On the other hand, Spain faces two electoral periods this year, both for the local and regional administration on May 28, and for the central government at the end of 2023, which means that announcements are made or measures are approved that also affect professionals.

Thus, at the end of the year and given the lack of professionals, the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration approved a **proposal to extend the retirement of doctors**, but limited to Family Medicine and Pediatrics, which has not yet finished implementing in the communities. In addition, the **pension system has been reformed**, so doctors will begin to contribute more for the hours of on-call worked based on two new supplements, although these guards are still not computed as time worked for retirement and this new contribution will not mean an increase in pension.

Finally, once again it has been verified how the Ministry of Health has become rather a 'political shuttle', since those who occupy it usually use it as a previous step to their candidacy for regional elections. The upcoming elections in May have meant the **departure of the previous minister to welcome José Manuel Miñones**, the new one who comes from the health field, but he is not a doctor. CESM has been asked the minister for a meeting to start working on the complicated situation of the National Health System.

Meanwhile, CESM continues to support the strikes called by the regional unions and work on the modification of the Framework Statute that regulates the labor regime of doctors, although its demand continues to be that a specific statute be drawn up for medical professionals.