



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

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The situation in the Czech healthcare system May - September 2023

Instead of the usually quiet summer season, it is now very busy in our country. The governing coalition has introduced changes to the Labour Code to the Chamber of Deputies.

These changes are in stark contrast to the position of the tripartite (the Social Dialogue Council), which has not recommended adopting any controversial amendment. The amendment which is intended to reconcile work and family life contains a paragraph that allows doctors to serve up to double the amount of overtime (up to 832 hours) against the current legislation (416 hours according to the European directive - EWTD). According to another section, the possibility to serve 24 - Hour shift was cancelled. Now doctors will be restricted to 12- Hour shifts. The first provision is highly unacceptable especially for young doctors and the second for all doctors.

The whole legislative process was stormy and without any such important prior discussion. The result of this situation is that doctors organize to protest. In this effort, we (Czech Doctors' Trade Union) have teamed up with young doctors. We have 4 requirements in common:

- 1) Immediate repeal of these two paragraphs;
- 2) creation of better working conditions;
- 3) compliance with current laws and possible inspections of health care facilities;
- 4) return to the implementation of the 2011 Memorandum in the area of financial evaluation of doctors. (The debt to the young doctors is around 600, -EUR, to the experienced doctors around 2000 EUR/month.).

Unfortunately, there will probably be no major developments until the date of the FEMS meeting in Marseille.

Prague, September 13, 2023

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