

Report Spain (FEMS)

Madrid, 19 April 2024; Since the last report sent in September, Spain has experienced important changes at the national level, since the new government has already taken office, following the general elections of July 23, 2023. Therefore, we have **a new Minister of Health** since November, a person who knows the sector, since she is an anaesthesiologist. Although she was **asked to meet** in those first days, it was not until mid-January that she received the Forum of the Medical Profession and on the first of March she received the CESM. Meetings in which the main issues **of the doctors that were transferred to the minister, there are still pending for solutions.**

This nomination has reactivated issues that were parked with the Ministry, with attempts to approach the **critical situation suffered by the colleagues in Ceuta and Melilla**, who depend organically on the ministry and who has relieved the person who was in charge of the managing entity, Ingesa. **The meetings have also been reactivated to advance in the modification of the Framework Statute of workers**, despite the fact that CESM has always called for a specific statute for doctors. In addition, progress continues to be made in the creation of the **specialty of Emergencies**, a project to which the Confederation submitted its allegations and which is still awaiting the final development to have the specialty that has been claimed for so many years.

Although it is strange, the **COVID 19 pandemic has still been talked about**, since at Christmas and especially January there was a significant uptick in infections. Then, the **masks** were recovered for health centres and pharmacies. The autonomous communities could eliminate these protection measures if the incidence fell. This situation is now normalized.

In recent months we have had **union elections in several autonomous communities**: Madrid, the Canary Islands, the Balearic Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, Castilla y León. CESM has obtained very important results, growing especially in the representatives of the workers (Resident Medical Interns -

MIR), which allows us to continue to **defend the best working conditions** of professionals.

As international trade union meetings, there have been two meetings; the first in Portugal in November together with the FNAM at the **II Spanish-Portuguese Conference**, where it was possible to verify that there are many more things that unite the employment situation of doctors in Spain and Portugal than the things that separate them, especially in terms of precariousness and the problem of migration. Poor working conditions are causing professionals to leave their countries, and the need for doctors is leading administrations to take measures that can deteriorate the quality of care and the conditions of doctors.

The second meeting took place in January in Alicante, and was the **V International Conference of Medical Unions**, where very interesting topics of the profession were shared and the way of acting and working conditions could be contrasted not only between the different countries of Europe, but also with countries of Latin America. Topics were discussed, with experts from European and Latin American countries, such as the candidacy of the Doctor-patient relationship as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, also occupational health, pressure measures, public and private systems, migrations or training.

Also in these months, CESM has led the medical union in Spain, which has been joined by 3 regional unions that do not belong to CESM, to ask the ministry to explain exactly its plans regarding **a professional reclassification**. Because Nursing is asking to be included in the A1 group and it is not understood how by level of training and responsibility doctors can share category with other health professions with minors Requirements. Therefore, there is a **demand for a differentiated category for doctors** that includes all their specificities.

On the other hand, the profession has been forced to remind on several occasions of the need **not to hire doctors without the qualifications**

required to work in the National Health System, as is being done in different health services due to the shortage of doctors.

In addition, it has been warned of the danger posed to the principle of equity by the recently approved **transfer of the powers to homologate university degrees** to an autonomous community (Basque Country) as a result of the agreements to form the central government. It is a matter of negotiating politically with health issues in exchange for giving support to political organizations and not for the general interest, something that CESM strongly denounced. This alert is both for the homologation of qualifications and for the MIR specialisation system, which must maintain its equity and cohesion and cannot be fragmented by regions with the consequent inequalities.

It is precisely the **Specialized Health Training** that has begun in these months the process for a new promotion of future specialists, who on this occasion have also maintained a telematic election. However, **the number of candidates who choose in turn has been reduced** and the ministry's commitment in its last meeting with the representatives of young doctors was **to improve the system to adapt it as much as possible to a real-time election**, as we have been demanding for years. The CESM Confederation continues to ensure that all the requirements are met to guarantee a choice of position and working conditions that respect the rights of future specialists in the National Health System.