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Sixth Congress of the Federation “Sanitary Solidarity” of Romania

Bucharest (Romania), 14-16.10.2016



Four hundred participants, trade union activists from over the whole of Romania, had come to Bucharest to discuss the congress' central theme “Improving the quality of working life – an essential condition for increasing the quality of medical services”.

That Viorel Rotilă had obtained his place in negotiations on health care appeared from the presence of every important actor in health care in Romania.

The Minister of Public Health, Vlad Vasile Voiculescu, praised the trade union for its practical position in the agreement signed with doctors from Romania. He hoped that a complete revision of remuneration in the health care sector could also be solved at the negotiation table.



The Minister of Labour, Dragoș Nicolae Pîslaru, admitted that regulations with regard to working hours and especially the obligation of doing overtime ask for a solution. Sanitary Solidarity had produced a study on this subject with reference to European and International regulations.



Other speakers were Dr. Gheorghe Borcean, president of the doctors' association, and Bogdan Hossu, president of Cartel Alfa. A representative of the President of the country's Senate also took part in the opening session.

On behalf of Eurofedop, Secretary General Bert Van Caelenberg addressed the Congress. He thanked FSSDR for its active participation in the trade council health services and gave a survey of the subjects discussed in that council, such as the free movement of workers in the European Union, the risk of low health care standards caused by the mobility of workers, and the need for governments to take adequate measures to improve working conditions in health care, so that health care professionals decide not to move away to another region in the country nor to work abroad.



The secretary general was also given the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Public Health on European initiatives regarding "healthcare quality".

The first day, the floor was given to delegates in the meeting room in preparation for salary negotiations. Rotila had made a study on this subject, which had also been published as a book (only written in Romanian). By means of data shown on charts, an attempt was made to give an overview of the present situation with regard to salaries earned by more than 50 health care categories in Romania.

The big question was: will they engage in negotiations on the basis of professions or groups of professions or ask for a linear raise? This difficult debate had to be concluded quickly, if they want to sit at the negotiation table with a clear position.

Europe needs to get in touch with the real problems of the health care sector and that is also why FSSDR has become member of Eurofedop. As real trade union representing the interests of the health care staff from European countries, we consequently consider this as one of our priority tasks.