

Slovakia has a new government that is a combination of four left-wing and right-wing parties. A very unusual phenomenon while forming the government was that none of the parties was interested in the position of the Minister of Health. Eventually, the party SMER which received almost 30% of all votes and nominated the old-new Prime Minister Mr. Fico, took the position of the Ministry of Health. To the surprise of everybody, they nominated a nondoctor, a crisis manager, the former CEO of the Slovak Post (Slovenská pošta). Although he has experience with certain processes in health insurance, he has also experience with the functioning of big hospitals, however, de facto he has less knowledge of all processes in Slovak health care.

One thing is for sure, there cannot be a worse situation in Slovak health care than it is now, so we all hope for the best from his work. In the Manifesto of the Government we had the opportunity to enforce some of our intentions. We mainly emphasized the need to elaborate and introduce a new registry of procedures into life. The currently used registry dated 1993 is translated from German and is quite obsolete. On the other hand, the new registry of procedures could be a suitable basis for a more precise definition of a basic benefit package, i.e. a basic package of paid procedures from health insurance.

It could also be a solution to the issue of fees that are a serious problem in Slovak health care. Slovak citizens contribute to the health care from private sources by the highest rate among the countries of the EU or OECD. Moreover, it is necessary to solve the questions of a minimum public network as well as the issue of the medical service of first aid. Mostly it is necessary to solve the age problem of the general practitioners for adults as well as the general practitioners for children and youth within the well-working residency program where we need to draw the final mainly of how to get young doctors to work in the countryside. The question of building integrated health care centres – associated practices - is directly connected to this issue. The Association of Private Practitioners has presented its clear opinions to the new Minister of Health and we are expecting productive, effective and creative cooperation.

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