



COUNTRY REPORT SPAIN By Dra. O. GARCIA / ASPROMEL / MADRID

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POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Since the General Elections of December 2015 and also after the second elections of June 26, 2016, the Spanish political situation is in a stalemate. A solution does not appear to be in sight. Three out of the four major parties would probably win votes at the expense of the socialist party, which has entered in a serious crisis. Third elections would be on December 25, 2016. Spanish politicians still resist to accept the fact that the society's and country's interests are hierarchically superior to ideology and party's interests. So the current government in function may only arrange short-term decisions and emergencies without being able to establish the general state budget, which in turn shuts down an important part of the society.

Regarding unemployment, the most important concern of Spanish people, it shows a rate of 3.720.297 people in September 2016. That is to say, 19.5% of active population (17.79 for men and 21.5% women), 43.2% of people under 25 years of age. There was a slight decrease but the Spaniards complain precarious wages and seasonal jobs.

Concerning the tourism, the largest Industry of Spain, in 2016 there has been a historical growth. I.e. almost 61 million visitors until October and probably until the end of the year 72 million visitors.

HEALTH POLICY

Given the political situation in Spain, described above, projects, and other Royal Decree decisions are suspended until a new Government is formed and elected. So our previous report, the presented last May also remains current at which we can add the following three projects :

1) Suspended Royal Decree concerning common criteria in competition for jobs. Its aim is to prevent arbitrary appointment to a working place and to control that the appointments are in agreement with the principles of equality, training and capacity in public services by ensuring mobility throughout all the Spanish state territory respecting the Autonomous Communities' competences. This is to say, to establish common criteria in the competition for jobs in the different facets of professional activities in the National Health System.

2) Suspended Royal Decree concerning the regulation of general bases of the method of authorization of health centers, services and facilities as well as the required common circumstances.

3) The Court of Justice on September 14, 2016, dictated 3 sentences where there would be the possibility for seasonal staff, working in the National Health System, to claim compensation for the same rights (sentence No. 3) as the regular professionals but without guaranteeing the seasonal professionals to get a fixed workplace (Sentences No. 1 and No. 2).

The goal is to avoid abuse with contracts for seasonal work in the National Health System, given that there are already many professionals working for 15 or 20 years with these kinds of seasonal contracts which transform, finally, into permanent or fixed.