

OPEN LETTER

TO THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

Our social safety concerns all of us... as well as 'education'

Our social security remains for many of us an abstract notion of a tangle of laws and regulations. Yet, in practice it appears that everyone will deal with it one day. For example, for the reimbursement of health care, the payment of the integration income, the family allowances or the pension. Social security in Belgium has an impact on all segments of the population and is therefore an important concept in our lives. Moreover, our social security is facing many challenges, such as the ageing of the population, the sustainability of our pension system and the erosion of solidarity. Our population is evolving and social security is forced to adapt to reality.

Our healthcare system and, by extension, our social security concerns all of us. Therefore, I plead it should be integrated into the education curriculum. Thus, every Belgian citizen will receive from an early age information about the Belgian system and his place, his rights and obligations in this system. Indeed, an informed citizen is a citizen capable of defending himself.

Furthermore, it is important that young people know our social security system and learn to develop their own vision of society. The youth of today will indeed contribute to the society of tomorrow, including its challenges. Confronting them at a young age with the organization of our society ensures that they can find inspiration to meet these challenges.

I therefore support that we should consider the important achievements of social security in all the branches of secondary education, whether general, technical, artistic or professional.

Medical studies have to be restructured in a different way. Despite the numerus clausus established in the 90s for the doctors, today we have been facing a shortage of psychiatrists, paediatricians and geriatricians. The shortage of geriatricians will especially be really big because of the ageing of the population.

That is the reason why I think that all the doctors should be prepared to choose their future practice during their academic education rather than only at the end of their studies. And of course, they should be encouraged to choose the options facing a deficit. Paediatricians, opticians, geriatricians, neurologists, etc., are professions suffering from a shortage of practitioners.

Is it indeed not a gap that students are not prepared during their studies to make a clear choice for a specialization?

Does the imposition of a quota for some specialties still make sense?

Doesn't the lack of training places play an important role as well?

The study of our social security must in that lead to a wider appreciation and understanding of our system that is based permanently on solidarity.

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