



Union
Syndicale
Bruxelles
Commission

OPEN LETTER TO COMMISSIONER J. HAHN - Anti-COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Belgium -

15 February 2021

Dear Commissioner,

Union Syndicale would like to draw your attention, as a matter of urgency, to a major issue emerging in the context of the anti-Covid19 vaccination campaign in Belgium and which could result in serious problems for several tens of thousands of people (family members and other dependants of active staff of the Institution as well as retired colleagues).

In response to requests for information from active or retired colleagues, some Belgian local authorities have informed them that, in order to be invited to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, they will have to be entered on the relevant lists by the "*mutuelle*" (national health insurance) to which they belong.

As you are well aware, the staff of the Institutions, as well as their families, dependants and pensioners, are not necessarily registered with a Belgian "*mutuelle*", and for many J.S.I.S. provides the primary sickness coverage.

While active staff will be vaccinated by the Institution, family members, other dependants and pensioners must be vaccinated by the Belgian authorities, but many may not be able to be so if being enrolled in a Belgian "*mutuelle*" is (as it seems) a prerequisite for inclusion on the lists of eligible persons.

We are aware of the 'demarche' undertaken by the Director-General of DG HR with the Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives of the Member States, in which they were reminded that it is necessary "*to ensure that all current and former staff members of the Union, as well as their family members are granted equal access to national vaccination campaigns against Covid-19, in line with the national rules*".

However, in the light of the information being circulated by some Belgian municipalities, we believe that your intervention with the competent authorities of our host country is indispensable and urgent.

We remain at your disposal for any further information and, while waiting for your kind communication on the matter, we thank you and send you our best regards.

[Signed]
Juan-Pedro Perez Escanilla
Secretary General USB

Cc: Mr D. Müller , Ms S. Bikar, (Cabinet Hahn)
Ms G. Ingestad, MM. Ch. Roques, E. Sakkers, (DG HR)
Mr A. Gemberg-Wiesike, Mr B. Fetelian (PMO)
Mr A. Katsogiannis, President CSC, Mr G. Vlandas, President LSC Brussels
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