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REPORT BELGIUM 2019.
The financial balance of health care for 2018 gives off a bonus of €154 million (654 million if one excepts the pharmacy).

Hallelujah!

but:

- Almost half of the hospitals have financial difficulties and go into the doctors pocket to get away with it.
- The number of burn-out cases among physicians is in sharp increase
- MRI installations (for purely budgetary reasons) have been removed, resulting in sometimes lengthy waiting lists.
- The requirement to computerize the medical file results in a work overload estimated at 100% by some general practitioners ….. with insufficient financial compensation.
- The regulation on the protection of personal data adds a workload for city medicine as for hospitals. These had to hire staff.
- There is always a shortage of doctors in the South of the country but the numerus clausus persists and despite an entrance examination to medical studies, the number of graduates exceeds the quotas granted to be able to practise.

* Etc…….

Concerning hospitals: the law organising the hospital sector in 25 networks for all Belgium has been voted and will be applied in 2020! The criteria for forming a network, which were explained last year, did not vary widely. This law applies to all current, public AND private hospitals.

The time is now for the negotiation of alliances between institutions, the Organization of managements and discussions on the place of physicians in the governance of these entities.

Finally, the quadrennial medical Union elections took place in June 2018.

It was a success for the ABSYM who recovered the absolute majority on the medical bench in instances where doctors are invited to give their opinion.

Only fly at the ointment: a very low voter turnout: 12139 votes cast on 50612 potential voters!

Obviously, the young doctors do not feel concerned, the old have problems with the Internet voting and the others are exhausted!