OPEN LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE EVENTS SECTOR

OUR BELOVED EVENTS SECTOR IS BEING SACRIFICED FOR OTHER SECTORS.

“I can really understand these people's frustration, these people are very professional. I am certain that they are able to organise - even large events - very professionally and safely. Often safer than small events that are organised ad hoc.”

Prof Marc Van Ranst - Vrt Journaal 1 p.m. Wednesday 15 July 2020.

Dear Professor Van Ranst,

Many thanks for the kinds words for our sector.

Dear Professors,

Ministers,

You cannot imagine the impact your decision has on the 80,000 people in our sector.

After more than 120 days without any perspective the unease has turned into desperation, the next step is anger.

This anger would not be out of place now already.

Our beloved events sector is being sacrificed for other sectors.

People are allowed to travel again at the request of the tourist sector, can go to markets, to shopping centres, and if this easing of measures results in an increase in the figures we are the ones who will bear the brunt.  We cannot accept this.

We check the visitors to our events at the entrance, and not at the exit!

Wouldn't it be more logical to check travellers entering Belgium instead of the people who are leaving?

And encourage tourism in Belgium itself?

Quite soon throngs of people will be in the shopping streets during the sales period and it fills us with concern.

The events sector will be even further away from an easing of restrictions because of 'the hike in figures’.

Stores, shopping centres, airports have less efficient crowd-control, zoning, time slots than our events.

We should not make an analysis of other sectors, but in our sector we can safely say that safety, crowd control and anticipating is second nature.

'Safety' is key in our sector and in our training.

Why do you distrust our sector? Because one idiot in Puurs behaved stupidly?

Dear doctors,

As doctors you also have a responsibility for the economic wellbeing of your ‘patients’.

A patient who asks ‘when can or will I be able to go back to work’ doesn't need a medical answer but a perspective, an honest answer, a mental and realistic boost.

80,000 men and women, 3,000 companies are your ‘patients’, this is how big but also how concrete your ‘power’ is.

You can hardly blame us, after 120 days practically the whole Belgian industry, retail, schools, hospitality sector, etc. has restarted.

Once again - urgently and with respect - we request a physical live meeting, with mouth masks and with our people around a table, at a location, date and time of choice.

But with enough time to structurally and pragmatically discuss all the questions of our sector.

Questions about tomorrow, about the summer, but also for September/October/November/December and 2021.

Let's have an immediate in-depth discussion about all the scenarios. Our job is planning and organising, let's also discuss the scenarios for 2021 at the same time.

Dear Politicians,

Belgium can make good use of our 80,000 employees, our sector was healthy, profitable and dynamic. Global players who often gave you a stage.

Trade fairs and conferences scheduled in the autumn are being moved to cities such as Breda and Lille, simply because the government in these countries does have a structural insight in the interests of this sector.

Belgians will soon flock en masse to concerts in other countries.

Even Belgian companies in our sector will get to work sooner abroad than in our own country.

The cabinets have done an excellent job helping us these last weeks.

The dossiers are on the table.

The CERM model works and can be modified.

The sector carried out more than 14,000 simulations in less than 2 weeks.

We can only move ahead with trust and respect.

With insight and consultation.

With good agreements. Self-regulating.

Politicians, you need to commit yourselves to our sectors.

Dear Virologists,

You must be incredibly tired after this huge - and complex - responsibility to protect the health and safety of Belgium, and we respect this.

We want to get out of this situation by working together.

As a sector we have very specific questions.

We are preparing this paper.

Realistic, ambitious but also responsible.

We look forward to a date and time to meet.

Kind regards,

Sincere thanks,

Bruno Schaubroeck

Spokesperson Alliance Belgian Event Federations