

BM64 – BUDAPEST



7b2

- Internal motion
- Resolution
- Amendment

Title: ESU Condemns the commodification of medical studies in France

Point of the agenda: 7b resolutions

Proposed by: la FAGE

Seconded by: Nuis, FAIRe, UdU, KSU, SUS, CREUP

Text:

1 ESU expresses its fears after the Portuguese University
2 Fernando Pessoa (UFP) opened a branch in Toulon (France). UFP
3 claims to have the right to provide healthcare education such as
4 dentistry, speech therapy, physiotherapy and pharmacy studies to
5 students in France.

6
7 UFP is a private university. Its registration fees are really high
8 (9'500€ / year as opposed to 150-500€ / year in public french
9 universities for the same studies) and in contempt of the rules for
10 higher education in force in France, and for medical education in the
11 country that has so far been 100% public. These high fees obviously
12 undermine equal access to higher education defended by all.

13
14 To this date, no opening authorisation has been given to the
15 French branch of UFP by the French accreditation authorities for
16 higher education. The French ministry for higher education has
17 already disapproved of the activities of UFP in an official
18 communication. The Portuguese agency for evaluation and
19 accreditation also states that it has not issued any certification to UFP
20 for education abroad. Moreover, it is impossible to know the quality

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21 of the training offered, nor the teachers recruited given the lack of
22 transparency of this institution. In addition to that, several doubts
23 have been expressed regarding their inadequate infrastructures, and
24 the internships, a core component of the healthcare and medical
25 training, will take place in Porto, 1500 kilometers away.

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27 These fears are even stronger when correlated to the
28 particularities of the health studies system in France, based on a
29 selection of students at the end of their first year. In the current
30 situation, UFP welcomes desperate students after they have failed to
31 pass the competitive-exams, and select them on their ability to pay
32 very high fees, without any guarantee that the diploma delivered will
33 allow them to work as medical and healthcare practitioners.

34
35 The European Students Union considers that UFP is again a
36 sign of a new massive commodification of the higher education
37 movement in France and in Europe, in the medical fields and in
38 general, that must be closed as soon as possible. To allow this
39 institution to carry on its higher education activities is to encourage
40 any entrepreneur to seek profit by establishing similar structures
41 across Europe in spite of standards for quality and equality of studies.

42
43 Unchecked diplomas are highly conflicting with public health,
44 the safety of future patients in Portugal and in France is at stake
45 here.

46
47 Besides, ESU is eager to see the Bologna process further
48 implemented in the medical and healthcare studies in France. ESU
49 condemns any projects of selection at the entrance of the first year
50 of these studies, advocates in favour of the integration of every
51 healthcare training inside public universities with an access to proper
52 Bachelor and Master degrees for these students, and encourages the
53 upcoming experimentations for the implementation of genuine
54 Bachelors in the medical fields to eventually look into the abolition of
55 the competitive-exam system.

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Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)