

52-week limit for illness to be extended soon

For employees suffering from a serious illness, exceeding 52 weeks of incapacity over a period of 2 years has serious repercussions: loss of entitlement to sick pay, and automatic end of their employment contract.

The social partners have long supported the need to extend this 52-week limit for illness. Last May, a bill was introduced to that end. It provides that incapacity for work shall henceforth be covered up to a **maximum threshold of 78 weeks**, always over a period of 104 weeks. **In the initial discussions, it was proposed to raise this threshold for certain illnesses only. In the end, for the sake of simplicity and in the absence of an agreement on specific illnesses to take into account, it was decided that this maximum would apply to all employees, irrespective of their ailment. The employment contract would cease to exist after these 78 weeks of sick pay.**

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