



3 April 2020

Dear Members,

All **national governments** have taken emergency measures to address the health crisis caused by the Coronavirus outbreak. They also have made available a range of national business support measures to businesses and employees.

On 26 March, the **European Council** agreed to continue to work along the following five strands:

- limiting the spread of the virus
- providing medical equipment, with a focus on masks and respirators
- promoting research, including research into a vaccine
- tackling socio-economic consequences
- helping citizens stranded in third countries.

The **European Commission** ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en)) and the **European Parliament** (<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/eu-response-to-coronavirus>) are committed to helping the Member States with all the appropriate instruments they have and working out a Europe-wide coordinated approach.

On 31 March, the **EFCA Board of Directors** discussed via Microsoft Teams how the federation could assist its members and the European industry.

It was decided to issue a **weekly quick update** on relevant EC actions (and EFCA interventions) and share (national) best practices.

At the same time, **the secretariat is inviting you all** to send - for sharing with your colleagues - guidance and (online) resources that could assist member firms in other countries.



### **EC guidance to ensure the free movement movement of critical workers**

Practical advice to ensure that mobile workers within the EU, particularly those in critical occupations to fight the coronavirus pandemic, can reach their workplace.

The guidelines identify a range of workers (e.g. engineering professionals) that exercise critical occupations, and for which continued free movement in the EU is deemed essential. The list provided in the guidelines is not exhaustive.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_545](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_545)

### **EC guidance on using the flexibilities of the EU public procurement framework**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.CI.2020.108.01.0001.01.ENG>

The **Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative** entered into force on 1 April.

€37 billion of cohesion policy money will strengthen healthcare systems, support SMEs, short-term employment schemes, and community-based services.

Furthermore, the EU Solidarity Fund will be deployed to support the most affected countries.

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/03/30-03-2020-coronavirus-response-investment-initiative-adopted](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/03/30-03-2020-coronavirus-response-investment-initiative-adopted)

**European standards for medical supplies** made freely available to facilitate increase of production

[https://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Press\\_Releases/Pages/PR-2020-003.aspx](https://www.cencenelec.eu/News/Press_Releases/Pages/PR-2020-003.aspx)



On 19 March, **EFCA** decided to move the **meetings** (including the GAM) that are scheduled in April, May and early June 2020 to a digital platform with restricted agendas. The conference will take place in June 2021.

**EFCA Future Leaders Competition:** The deadline for application has been postponed to Thursday, 30 April 2020.

**European consulting industry calls for EU procedures to go digital during coronavirus — and beyond.**

**EFCA** and Feaco jointly wrote to the European Commission with a range of e-procurement proposals to ensure continuity of the European firms' participation in the external aid market. The letter was sent to DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development), DG NEAR (European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and FPI (Service for Foreign Policy Instruments).

<https://www.efca.be/news/european-consulting-industry-call-eu-procedures-go-digital-during-coronavirus-and-beyond>

**EFCA** and some of the other main stakeholders of the construction sector issued a joint statement, calling for urgent measures to protect workers' health, support economic activity and accelerate the post COVID 19 recovery period.

<https://www.efca.be/news/construction-2050-joint-statement-covid19>

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Coronavirus (COVID-19): **FIDIC** Guidance for Global Consulting Engineering Businesses (<https://www.fidic.org/node/29160>)

European International Contractors (**EIC**) COVID-19 and the Global Construction Business (<https://www.eic-federation.eu/industry/covid-19-and-global-construction-business-site-progress>)

**KHL** - Construction and COVID-19: rolling news update

<https://www.khl.com/international-construction/construction-and-covid-19-rolling-news-update/142849.article>

Guidance on COVID-19 and the impact on **Annual General Meetings** (Governance Institute of Australia)

<https://www.governanceinstitute.com.au/news-media/news/2020/mar/new-guidance-on-covid-19-and-the-impact-on-agms/>

Implementation of **green lane border crossings**: live map for truck border crossing times: <https://covid-19.sixfold.com/>