



## To the affiliated organisations of the EFBWW

Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends,

The Corona / COVID-19 crisis has turned into a European and global health crisis. More and more countries are taking measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

These measures have an enormous impact on economies, on social and political life and on society as a whole. Some countries are going in a complete lockdown.

The EFBWW has also adopted very strict measures to protect its staff, partners and other relatives. We have imposed a travel ban and all physical meetings have been cancelled. The EFBWW Secretariat in Brussels is closed until further notice. All EFBWW staff is requested to work from home. Of course, you can still reach us by phone, email and social media.

We know many affiliates have taken similar measures. We hope this situation will end as soon as possible.

Our thoughts go especially to our colleagues and friends in the countries most affected. Our thoughts go also to all the workers in our sectors who cannot work from home and who are still working on construction sites and in companies.

We want to call on the authorities not to forget our workers and their families.

The EFBWW calls on the social partners at local, national and EU level to act responsibly and take adequate measures.

We want to stress that workers in our sectors are highly mobile. This requires a specific approach and a specific set of measures.

At this moment, we would like to remind all that health insurance and social protection are basic human rights and should be treated as such. Health before profit!!

We already see that xenophobic and protectionist movements and political parties use this crisis to increase their propaganda against migration, international solidarity and for protectionism and isolation. In this respect, the EFBWW wants to firmly underline its support for a fair internal market, for equal treatment of all workers and will continue its fight against social dumping.

The EFBWW can and will not tolerate the scapegoating of mobile workers, migrant workers and refugees by populist and right-wing parties and individuals.

We ask our affiliates to be aware of this very dangerous anti-democratic behaviour and immediately act against it.

In the light of this crisis, the EFBWW wants to express its support to and solidarity with all its affiliates.

We call upon our affiliates to stand together in unity and solidarity. Together we are strong!! And now is the time to be strong to protect our members, our values, our society and democracy.

(We also inform you that the ETUC has set up a dedicated [webpage](#) related to the Corona virus and the answer of trade unions and social partners).

Stay safe and stay healthy

Tom Deleu  
EFBWW General Secretary

Johan Lindholm  
EFBWW President