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Covid-19 crisis: Call to the European Union and to National Governments - The European taps and valves sector requests for measures to protect workers, keep the supply chains operating and accelerate the recovery

The COVID-19 outbreak is creating a worldwide sanitary situation which is unprecedented in the last century, causing a state of emergency with the health and life of citizens at risk. This dreadful situation is also causing negative economic impacts with hundreds of companies struggling to guarantee their business.

CEIR represents European taps and valves manufacturers, whose more than 300 companies employ around 50,000 people. In light of this emergency, we express our commitment to supporting public authorities and our workers' well-being, as well as the need to keep the industry supply chains operating to guarantee the essential services and to envisage measures to accelerate the recovery. In particular, we call for:

- the definition of health and safety measures and guidelines allowing employers to ensure the required level of workers' protection. Our workers are our most valuable asset and proper equipment is needed to ensure to them the highest sanitary and hygienic conditions;
- the inclusion of taps and valves production as an essential service, as one of the major recommendations to citizens is to regularly wash hands. Domestic, building and industrial valves are key equipment for water supply along with waste water disposal lines in ensuring clean water reaches every building and ultimately the end faucet. The lack of supplies of replacement or the non-availability of new products in the market as a consequence of halting manufacturing could put the health and safety of citizens at risk;
- the guarantee to the continuation of our functions. Our companies are functional for the full operativity of several essential services; most notably we supply products and components for water supply and water treatment, sanitary, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, energy supply especially electricity and gas service equipment, and many industries such as pharmaceutical and agri-food sectors;
- the protection of the European internal market and the assurance of the free movement of goods and products among EU Member States. Our entire supply-value chain is strictly interrelated at European level with components and parts produced in other EU countries;
- the commitment to undertake measures aimed at supporting companies, accelerating the recovery and preserving the industrial production. Whereas short-term actions are necessary, medium and long-term measures must be implemented to avoid distortion of the market and commercial advantages for our competitors outside Europe;

- the coordination among Member States and at EU level to tackle the crisis. A collective response in the name of solidarity and mutual support is of absolute necessity to be able to address the sanitary crisis as well as the economic major impact.

Today, where hygiene is of utmost importance, the efficient operation of our sector, which operates without interruption from the water discharge point to the reaching of the faucet of our homes, has become a matter of global safety, especially in stopping the spread of the epidemic.

CEIR is willing to work together with authorities and stakeholders in order to beat COVID-19 and ensure a proper business continuity for our industry.

Yours sincerely,



Carlos Velazquez,
CEIR President