

CEEP ACTIVITIES ON THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

In line with the measures put in place by the Belgian authorities as a response to the COVID-19 emergency, and in the interest of staff safety and societal responsibility, the whole CEEP General Secretariat Team will telework until Friday 3 April.

Everything has been organised to ensure the continuity of our activities: as was the case for the Water and Environment Task Forces meetings earlier this week, all upcoming meetings will be held virtually, and our activities of information and influence at EU level are continuing and even potentiated. Indeed, as a cross-sectoral social partner CEEP is having and will have meetings with the EU institutions in the context of the immediate and longer-term socio-economic impact of this emergency.

Call for examples on the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on public services and SGIs

In the context of our activities related to the COVID-19 emergency aimed at highlighting the key role of public services and services of general interest in combating the epidemic and mitigating its societal consequences, CEEP has reached out earlier this week to its members to collect examples of practices and impacts on their daily activities. We have already received a significant amount of examples, and we would like to thank those of you who have already contributed to this exercise

The examples and practices collected will serve as a basis to prepare CEEP messages to the EU institutions, with the specific aim of making sure that our members will benefit from the measures put in place. In this regard, we also aim at pointing out eventual loopholes of the current measures, one flagrant one being that all those put in place for SMEs will not benefit our members, and another that the special framework for state aid will leave many SGEIs out.

The examples will also be circulated to our members to foster exchanges and discussions on how public services and services of general interest can mitigate the ongoing crisis. **They will also represent a strong case for our future demands concerning bolder support (in terms of policies as well as in terms of investment) vis à vis SGIs.**

To facilitate the process of collection, we have prepared a [form](#), which we invite you to download, complete and return to guillaume.afellat@ceep.eu.

Meetings with European Council President Charles Michel, and with European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Schmit on the EU response to COVID-19

The COVID-19, as well as the political response to it, prompted EU leaders to consult with social partners over the last few days. Together with the other EU social partners, CEEP has met and exchanged on the ongoing crisis with Council President Charles Michel on Thursday 12 March, and with European

Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Nicolas Schmit on 18 March.

On both occasions, CEEP highlighted the key role of public services and services of general interest in mitigating the consequences of the crisis, as well as to call upon the EU to take all measures necessary to limit the economic consequences of this public health crisis.

Joint statement of Social Partners on the COVID-19 emergency

EU Social Partners (CEEP, ETUC, BusinessEurope and SMEUnited) issued on Monday 16 March a joint statement on the COVID-19 emergency. You can consult the statement [here](#).

CEEP press release on the relief package presented by the European Commission

Finally, CEEP also commented on the relief package presented by the European Commission last Friday. CEEP highlighted the urgency to put in place actions aimed at mitigating the social and economic consequences of COVID-19, as well as the key role of public services and services of general interest. You can read the [press release here](#).

OTHERS NEWS

CEEP Water and Environment Task Forces meetings of 17 March

On 17 March, the Water and Environment Task Force held their first meetings of the year, exclusively online due to the current COVID-19 crisis.

In the morning, the Water Task Force updated its members on the latest developments of the Drinking Water Directive and the Water Reuse, and briefed them on the latest Working Group meetings in the Commission on the development of the Water Fitness Check and Working Group Chemicals, which were held in January and February. The Task Force also agreed to continue to follow the Draft Resolution on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, and will hold an online meeting on 26 March dedicated to this issue. In the afternoon, the Environment Task Force kick started its discussions on the recently published Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and welcomed Mr Mattia Pellegrini, Head of Unit for Waste Management at the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment. Mr Pellegrini gave an insightful overview on the context and aims of the new CEAP, which should develop a European strategy for a more sustainable economy by significantly reducing waste, recycling more products, boosting the right to repair initiatives and involving consumers by giving them more rights. Mr Pellegrini also mentioned that the Commission is planning to review the Sludge Directive regarding which both the Water and Environment Task Force will consider jointly working on a statement.

CEEP Transport Task Force on 27 March

Next week on 27 March, the Transport Task Force will take place as scheduled from 10:00-13:00 via WebEx. Further information and how to register, please contact Henriette Gleau, Policy Officer Sustainability (henriette.gleau@ceep.eu).

Save the date: Experts' meeting gender inequalities in pay and in unpaid care on 21 April 2020

CEEP will take part in the virtual meeting that the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is organising on 21 April 2020. In the context of the joint work EIGE is performing together with the German Presidency of the EU, they are currently engaged in research work on gender inequalities in pay and in unpaid care. The objective of the research is to get a greater understanding of the ways in which the unequal distribution of unpaid care in families supports pay inequalities in the labour market. The research will also explore the ways families externalise care work and the trends towards equal sharing of care work between women and men.

EIGE therefore called for an experts' consultation meeting on 21 April (that will now be held online) to discuss the policy relevance of the research findings. Given the role public employers play in the design and delivery of care services, CEEP was invited to address the meeting.

Should you wish to receive more information regarding the meeting, do not hesitate to contact CEEP Project Manager, [Carlotta Astori](#).