



European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry

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The EFCI calls upon decision-makers to guarantee the safety and free movement of cleaning personnel involved in sanitation campaigns related to COVID-19.

In the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, the EFCI calls on national authorities to **take consideration of the specificities of the cleaning sector and of the needs and difficulties cleaning agents and companies are undergoing in the current context.**

The emergency has made clear **the importance of sanitizing**, in particular in hospital environments, to safeguard the health of users, patients, and of sanitary personnel. Sanitization operations¹ are “all proceedings and operations aiming at making certain environments healthy by cleaning and / or cleaning disinfection and / or disinfestation or through the control and improvement of microclimate conditions regarding temperature”, **which are essential to prevent the spread of the virus as well to enable the continuity of other essential activities.**

Considering the crucial role of such specific interventions in the current crisis situation, the EFCI calls to national governments who have taken extraordinary measures or are preparing for them, to:

- i. Take the necessary steps to **ensure the sufficient provision to cleaning companies and workers of (i) personal protective equipments (PPEs)** - such as protective glasses, facemasks, gloves, surgical overalls and gowns -, **and (ii) hydroalcoholic gels** and disinfectants, and to ensure that such provision is made free of charge;
- ii. To **equalize sanitization, cleaning and hygiene interventions to sanitary interventions** when it comes to guaranteeing worker safety and maximum efficiency;

¹ They need to be differentiated from other services carried out by the sector - including cleaning, disinfestation, disinfection and rat extermination.



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- iii. To **ensure the free movement of cleaning companies' personnel and vehicles**, duly identified and pursuing their essential missions, within national borders but also for cross-border workers and companies.

Governments must recognize the crucial role as well as the risks to which the cleaning sector is being exposed, by providing the necessary instruments to ensure the safety of cleaning agents, who are working together with the sanitary sector and others in the common fight against coronavirus. Further, they must take the necessary steps to enable agents and companies to reach their working sites.

The industrial cleaning sector engages to continue providing its services with the utmost **responsibility and professionalism**. The EFCI also expresses its **solidarity** with the people suffering the effects of the crisis and reiterates its commitment with its employees and fellow citizens.

The EFCI

The **EFCI** is the voice of the European cleaning and facility services industry in Europe, bringing together associations representing the industry at national level. The cleaning and facility services sector is one of the major services industries in Europe, representing more than 270,000 companies employing nearly 4 million people. To know more, visit [EFCI's website](#) and consult [EFCI's political priorities](#).