



European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry

The European Social Partners in the Industrial Cleaning adopt a Joint Statement on the impact on the sector of the Covid-19 outbreak

Brussels, 22 April 2020 - The European Social Partners in Industrial Cleaning, the EFCI and UNI Europa, adopted today a joint statement calling on public authorities to adopt urgent measures to ensure the sector can continue providing its essential services during and after the Covid-19 outbreak.

In their joint statement, the Social Partners welcome the recognition of the crucial role that employers and employees in the sector are currently playing to contain the spread of Covid-19 and safeguard public health.

They call for adequate and proportionate responses by European and national authorities, by addressing the negative economic impact of Covid-19 containment measures on the sector while ensuring the often neglected safety and wellbeing of cleaning agents that are engaged in high risk working sites. To this end, the Social Partners call European and national authorities to:

- i. Granting cleaning, disinfection and sanitisation the status of essential activities. Thereby, cleaning agents shall have access to the necessary personal protective equipment (PPEs) as well as to freedom of movement and access to day-care services for their children during lockdowns.
- ii. Actively supporting employment and income security in the sector, affected by the closure of public and private buildings, by upholding their contracts with cleaning services suppliers.

Further, the Social Partners encourage public and private buyers engaged in the selection of cleaning services to support high social standards as well and ensuring the quality of their selection by following the advice provided in their jointly developed [Best Value Guide](#).

The Social Partners finally underline that the sector is committed to continue providing its quality services and that, with the adequate support from European and national authorities, it can actively contribute to Europe's economic and social recovery.



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Background

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 283,000 companies employing 4.1 million people. To know more, visit [EFCI's website](#) and consult [EFCI's political priorities](#).

The European Social Dialogue

Since 1999, the EFCI and its counterpart the trade union UNI Europa, have formally engaged in the Industrial Cleaning Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC).

The European social dialogue is a forum for discussions, negotiations and joint actions involving organisations representing the two sides of industry. It allows to foster understanding between social partners at a supranational level. It also allows social partners to work on projects promoting the overall interest and reinforcing the image of the sector.

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