

LightingEurope Statement

COVID-19 Pandemic

Brussels, 27 March 2020

As Europe and the world address the global pandemic of COVID-19, Member State governments in Europe are considering and implementing measures to contain the spread of the virus and the lighting industry welcomes these actions that aim to protect people.

LightingEurope urges national governments to ensure Europe's lighting companies can continue to manufacture and supply the lighting products needed to support the critical infrastructure that is tackling the current pandemic: in hospitals and care homes, in roads, warehouses, manufacturing sites and shops for example for food and health supplies, as a means of disinfection or as part of medical devices.

Health and safety are paramount, and the lighting industry is in a position to apply the strict health and safety precautions set by authorities to protect staff and the wider population and continue to manufacture and supply the essential products needed during this crisis.

LightingEurope therefore asks that national governments classify lighting as an essential product/system and a strategic sector to allow lighting companies to continue to operate, and lighting products to be distributed and sold.

Demand for essential lighting products will continue during this pandemic. The outbreak of the virus, and the corresponding measures that restrict business operations, are at different phases across the globe. We caution against overly strict measures that can have an adverse impact on the recovery of Europe's industry - around 80% of LightingEurope's membership are SMEs.

Ensuring business continuity to deliver lighting products to customers around the world that depend on these products is a priority that in no way detracts from the need to contain the health crisis.

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About LightingEurope

LightingEurope is the voice of the lighting industry, based in Brussels and representing 33 companies and national associations. Together these members account for over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are small or medium-sized. They represent a total European workforce of over 100,000 people and an annual turnover exceeding 20 billion euro. LightingEurope is committed to promoting efficient lighting that benefits human comfort, safety and well-being, and the environment. LightingEurope advocates a positive business and regulatory environment to foster fair competition and growth for the European lighting industry. More information is available at www.lightingeurope.org.