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European Association of the Machine Tool Industries
and related Manufacturing Technologies

CECIMO PRESS RELEASE

CECIMO call to action to manufacturing companies to help hospitals in need

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In this moment of public health emergency caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, the healthcare sector is facing unprecedented challenges.

In particular, the virus outbreak is causing **severe shortages of critical medical equipment in hospitals or limited access to essential pieces, in particular valves or ventilators.**

CECIMO was requested by the European Commission to address its membership and query if it would be able to aid in producing equipment (for instance, valves or ventilators) that hospitals are lacking due to the COVID19 outbreak in Europe. Consequently, CECIMO has decided to expand the call for action to all manufacturing companies, urging everybody who has the possibility to do so, to assist the needs of hospitals all over Europe.

The response from CECIMO Members has been so far very positive, with many companies especially from the 3Dprinting industry already volunteering to aid hospitals and health centers by proposing the use of their machines. CECIMO believes that indeed also the additive manufacturing sector can be of great help to reach immediate solutions. A good example is the case of the Italian start-up Isinnova, which offered their printer to a hospital in lack of valves for their medical devices.

From a regulatory point of view, there are some legal constraints that can hamper the full implementation of such solutions. Member States should consider temporarily waiving some of the Medical Device Directive requirements for strategical goods during this period of crisis.

In this regard, we welcome Commissioner Breton's statement, claiming that the EC will facilitate all companies helping in this time, also protecting them from potential legal issues. The Commissioner also highlighted that manufacturing technologies should be included in the scope of a new fund aiming to sustain different sectors, such as healthcare, in this time of need.

"I believe that the manufacturing sector can play an important role in sustaining the effort of hospital workers in the middle of this emergency." Says **Filip Geerts, CECIMO Director General**, "However, it is in the best interest of all to clarify the regulatory issues in order to move forward quickly and in a way that is not going to delay immediate actions".



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About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries and related Manufacturing Technologies. We bring together 15 national associations of machine tool builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe (EU + EFTA + Turkey), over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 98% of the total machine tool production in Europe and about 35% worldwide. It accounts for more than 150,000 employees and a turnover of around 27 billion euros in 2019. More than three quarters of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas half of it is exported outside Europe.

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