



Dear colleague,

these days we face an invisible "enemy" who changes our lives, our habits, our needs and our desires.

The first people who fight the virus corona are health care professionals, nurses, medical technicians, doctors and all other non-health care professionals who struggle for 24 hours to keep the whole situation under control.

In this way, we would like to describe to you the current situation in Croatia.

On 19 March Croatia has total of 105 people infected with coronavirus and five were cured..

All infected patients are stable, there is no evidence of worsening their conditions. Currently, 105 people have been confirmed to be infected with coronavirus and five have been cured.

It is important to emphasize that the Ministry of Health, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, epidemiological services, Civil Protection staff of the Republic of Croatia, hospitals and all other organizations are doing a great job at this moment.

Croatia has recognised the virus as a serious health threat very early, on January 9, a day after China declared an epidemic.

The virus knows no borders and we must know how to defend ourselves in those circumstances. Therefore we were forced to introduce radical measures which went into force at midnight.

Since March 19, decisions of the Civil Protection Staff of the Republic of Croatia are in force in Croatia, which enters into force a series of measures aimed at preventing the spread of new coronavirus infection for 30 days.

These decisions prohibit public gatherings and sporting events, suspend work in restaurants and shops other than food and drug stores, suspend the operation of sports and recreation centers and suspend religious gatherings.

A temporary ban on the movement of persons across border crossings is also in force.

Our union every day receives new information from our members, nurses working in hospitals and infectology clinics and caring for infected patients.

They work hard, but it is important to say that hospitals have provided all the necessary care for healthcare professionals.

The responsibility for the health and safety of our members, and healthcare workers, lies with employers and The Ministry of Health. Healthcare workers must have fit-tested personal protective equipment.

Therefore, our goal is to warn the Ministry of health system to take care of protecting healthcare professionals

The Trade Union is primarily active in the field of protecting nurses' labour rights, protecting the rights and obligations of the profession, collective negotiating and signing collective agreements, as well as the material and social security of nurses and technicians and the protection of all trade union and social rights.

These days we are very proud of our members, the nurses and medical technicians.

We are proud that our union is fighting for the social rights , labour rights of nurses and all other healthcare professionals ... because they really deserve it.

Also, unions, Government, Ministry of health these days show communion, solidarity and social dialogue.

Croatia has never before faced a crisis of this kind, and all of us have the same goal: to stop the number of people infected with the virus, protect healthcare professionals from being infected by a corona virus, protect the health of all citizens and of course save the jobs of workers in all sectors of the economy.

We already know now that the coronavirus epidemic will have significant consequences on our economy, especially for transport, tourism and the hospitality industry.

Thanks to our economic situation being better today than a few years ago, our economy is more resilient to shocks today.

However, the magnitude of this crisis requires extraordinary measures.

As a result, the Government has adopted a package of measures aimed at preserving the jobs and liquidity of the company.

The fight against coronavirus we face today is the greatest challenge for us all.

The current situation in Croatia, Europe and around the world requires unity and responsibility because only in this way will we all overcome this disease together.

We all must do everything together to save every human life.

It is not just the responsibility of the health system. It is the responsibility of each of us.

Thank you to all health and non-health professionals workers for all they do in these difficult times.

Thank you EPSU for all activities they do to save workers, our jobs and our people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion, we give solidarity to all countries in Europe and the world in the fight against the pandemic of the corona virus.

We believe in the hope that the crisis will end quickly and that all the people in this fight will come up as the greatest winners.

In solidarity,

Croatian Trade Union of nurses and medical technicians

Zagreb, 19 March 2020