

European Office



Position paper on the posting of workers in the current COVID-19 outbreak

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Introduction

The impact of the current COVID-19 outbreak on businesses and citizens in the EU is enormous. Understandably, the EU Member States are taking measures to protect the health of their citizens. Nevertheless, we believe that the European Commission should continue to fulfil its role as Guardian of the Treaties, in particular concerning the Internal Market. The integrity of the Internal Market for goods and services is of key importance to preserve supply chains and to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. Posted workers play here an important role; they are needed to make sure that machines, which are needed to produce for example food, medicines and protective clothing, are maintained and can continue to operate in the Member States.

Below you will be able to find the key recommendations of the German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) in the area of the posting of workers during the current COVID-19 outbreak. VDMA represents more than 3.300 member companies in the SME-dominated mechanical engineering industry in Germany and Europe. With around 1,3 million employees in Germany and a turnover of EUR 230 billion (2019), the sector is the largest industrial employer and one of Germany's leading sectors of industry overall.

Key recommendations in the area of the posting of workers:

- Even more in the current crisis, posted workers are needed to install, operationalise, service and maintain key machines, such as pharmaceutical machinery. The European Commission should make sure that such critical postings remain possible.
- The European Commission should make available standard forms that posted workers can use while travelling from one EU Member State to another during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The European Commission should make available a registry or platform that consists of the legal framework in the EU Member States to send a posted worker to another Member State during this crisis.

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