



The Voice of European Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heat Pumps Contractors

Call to the European Union and to national Heads of States and Governments

Brussels, 30th March 2020

COVID-19: enabling refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors to fulfil the essential needs of our European citizens

The COVID-19 outbreak is an unprecedented situation for Europe. The EU and Member States are facing a major challenge: protecting people's health and safety whilst mitigating the enormous economic impact of the pandemic and of the confinement measures that are put into place across countries.

In this period of global health crisis, cooling is critical to fulfil the most immediate needs of our European citizens: preserving food and medicines, providing thermal comfort in hospitals and homes, keeping data centres running, and much more. In this context, refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors represented by AREA play an essential role by ensuring the maintenance, repair and overall efficient functioning of refrigeration and cooling systems. They allow the cold chain to operate and the Internet to function, and they support healthcare.

We call on European and national leaders to enable refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors to fulfil their duty in support of our European citizens' most essential needs and in full respect of the sanitary measures protecting operatives' health and safety.

This notably means:

- Recognising the essential characteristic of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors
- Allowing cross-border circulation of operatives under reasonable health and safety conditions
- Preserving the flow of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and parts

We look forward to working closely with authorities at European, national and local levels to fight the pandemic and win the battle against COVID-19.

Marco Buoni
President