

English Translation of the Letter of the Belgian Parking Federation from March 17, 2020

Brussels, 17. March 2020

Madam Prime Minister,
Ministers of the Federal Government, Ministers-Presidents and
Ministers of regional governments

The Belgian Parking Federation (FBS), which brings together companies that operate on- and off-street parking lots in Belgium, is very concerned about the crisis caused by the coronavirus in our country. It fully supports the measures which have been taken at the various levels of power in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible.

Both the Belgian Parking Federation and the member companies are doing everything in their power to in turn fight the spread of the virus.

The car parks are managed as far as possible remotely, via control rooms, with intervention teams who are ready to act if necessary. To limit human contact with cash to the strict minimum, users are systematically directed to electronic payments, both for street parking and off-street mode.

Now that the population has been invited to stay at home as much as possible and to work from their home, that the shops have been closed and that economic activity is practically at a standstill, the car parks are almost empty.

It is already clear that this crisis has hit our sector particularly hard and that we believe that this situation should continue for at least two months. The financial consequences of the reduction in activities are already being felt and that is why we are going to invoke the concept of "force majeure" right now. The authorization to resort to technical and economic unemployment for our staff, which our companies will have to resolve due to the reduction in their activities, will certainly not be sufficient to compensate for foreseeable financial losses.

We therefore dare to ask you to confirm our conviction that we can invoke force majeure in other areas and to also take measures in favor of our companies, in order to allow them to cope financially with this crisis situation.

We are thinking in particular of the authorization to postpone payments of social security contributions, to postpone VAT and ONSS payments for the quarters during which it will have its impact, and to authorize a temporary suspension of our financial obligations contractual vis-à-vis public authorities (for example in the context of concessions).

Madam Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Ministers of the Federal Government and of the Regional Governments, we are eager to bring you our help in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus. We are open to any constructive suggestions in this regard. At the same time, however, we kindly ask you to consider our concerns. We believe that we must guarantee the viability of our businesses, which already in the very short term will be hit hard by this crisis.

We are also at your disposal for a discussion relating to all of this issues.

Please accept, Excellency, the expression of our most respectful greetings,

Dominique Laurent,

Director

on behalf of Dimitri Heirbaut, President and Roland Cracco and peter Lamens, Vice Presidents