



CECIP Newsletter March 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has a significant negative impact on the European weighing industry. Although the size of the impact is still uncertain, it is clear that the industry faces major economic problems due to disruptions in supply chains, production and providing services. CECIP, as representative of the weighing industry in Europe, welcomes the wide-range of measures already introduced by Member States and calls on the EU and Member States to continue with new actions. CECIP believes actions should be taken to focus, at least, on the following points:

- **Ensure liquidity of companies:** Measures that can support companies in ensuring liquidity and being able to pay the bills are highly important. Not only for the weighing industry itself, but for all its suppliers and service providers. This could, for example, be a delay of VAT-payments, short-time work compensation or reducing bills for utilities or rental fees. It is important that bureaucracy should be kept at a minimum for the measures introduced.
- **Increase flexibility in deadlines weighing industry:** Audits and verifications are carried out on a continuous basis within the weighing industry. Often these need to be done before a certain deadline. Considering the social distancing measures in place in most Member States CECIP believes it is better if deadlines can be extended.
- **Retain personnel with right skills:** In the last years the European weighing industry is experiencing difficulties with attracting sufficient personnel with the right skills. It is important that the employees currently working in the industry can be retained, despite possibly temporary unemployment and cashflow problems. Short-time work compensation as introduced in several countries is a vital measure that should be introduced as widely and flexible as possible.
- **Keep supply chains and borders open:** The supply chains of the weighing industry are highly international. Additionally, technicians need to be able to carry out services in other countries. Therefore, CECIP requests maintaining the free movement of goods and persons with as little hindrances as possible.
- **Avoid unnecessary bankruptcies:** A number of companies in the European weighing industry will face adverse conditions in the coming months. Normally healthy companies will fight for survival. European funds via the European Investment Bank should be dedicated to protect companies that are in trouble due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, national governments should introduce state-backed loan guarantees to banks allowing companies to get the options to keep the business ongoing in the heat of the crisis.

The European weighing industry is a competitive industry and structurally in good health. It is a world leading industry and vital for enabling other sectors to function properly and innovate. Therefore, CECIP is convinced that the weighing industry can overcome these problems if the right actions are taken by the EU and its Member States.

You can read the full CECIP statement [here](#).

The European Commission informed CECIP already about the new initiatives such as:

- Practical guidance to ensure a continuous flow of goods across the EU via green lanes
- A 37 billion Corona Response Investment Initiative to provide liquidity to small businesses and the health care sector
- EU guidelines for border management measures

CECIP will continue the relevant initiatives and investigate further what specific actions are necessary for the weighing industry.



CECIP General Assembly 2020 by webconference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was decided to not have the CECIP General Assembly 2020 as a physical meeting. The General Assembly and the related internal meetings will take place as webconferences on the times that were originally planned. To guarantee the health of the participants, this seems the best option and we hope all CECIP members understand. Persons that registered already for the GA can contact CECIP.

The plan is to organise the CECIP 2021 in London with a similar programme. The date is tentatively set for 11 June and you will receive a confirmation as soon as it is finalised. We hope you understand the decision.



CECIP welcomes EU Industrial Strategy

The European Commission published on 10 March its new [EU Industrial strategy](#). As CECIP we actively supported the request for the EU Industrial Strategy as part of the Industry4Europe coalition consisting of over 150 European industry associations. Therefore, we welcome the publication of the document as it is positive there is more attention for industry and its role in the European economy is recognized.

Besides the EU industrial strategy the following documents were published:

- [Long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of single market rules](#)
- [Identifying and addressing barriers to the Single Market](#)
- [An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe](#)

In general, the documents describe clearly the problems and opportunities for the European weighing industry (and industry in general). Furthermore, general measures that can benefit the competitiveness of the European industry are proposed. These are not sector specific and focus on advancing the industry as a whole such as reducing administrative requirements. Although it seems that the analysis in the documents is good, the actions proposed won't have a very high impact in reducing the specific problems for the European weighing industry. The most important measures seem to be in the area of the EU Single Market. Several examples are the following: such as the following:

- Update guidance on the services directive and mutual recognition
- Improve access to information on national rules and requirements
- Preventing new barriers in the area of services due to new notification procedures
- Increase capacity of SOLVIT to deal with single market disputes
- Set-up Single Market Enforcement Task-Force

Next to the proposed actions focusing on the EU single market the following actions could be of interest to CECIP members and particularly SMEs.

- Update the Skills Agenda for Europe to modernise vocational training
- Develop digital crash courses for SMEs
- Upgrade the Enterprise Europe Network with sustainability advisors
- Support Initial Public Offerings of SMEs

Overall, CECIP welcomes the acknowledgement of the importance of the EU industry, but expectations for the proposed actions are limited when it comes to actions related to the weighing industry. This document will serve as a basis for further actions of the European Commission in the coming years. Where it impacts the weighing industry specifically CEICP will follow the initiatives.



Study started on transposition EU metrology legislation in Member States

A consortium of consultants was contracted by the European Commission to start a study on the transposition of EU metrology legislation by Member States. It focusses on the Directives 2011/17/EU on metrology, Directive 2014/31/EU on NAWI's, Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments and 2015/13 on water meters. The study consists of 4 tasks that focus on different aspects of the transposition of European metrology

legislation in national legislation. It is expected that the project will last until the first quarter of next year.

CECIP is currently preparing its initial input to the study and will follow the developments closely to provide input where possible. Additionally, one of the consultants working on the study will give a presentation at the LMG seminar as part of the CECIP GA.



CECIP begins liaison with CEN/CENELEC committee on NAWI

CECIP was approved as liaison of CEN/CENELECT Joint Technical Committee 18 on non-automatic weighing instruments (NAWI). This joint technical committee will be responsible for the revision of EN 455501, which is the harmonised standard under Directive 2014/31/EC on non-automatic weighing instruments. In other words, the technical requirements to show compliance with the European legislation are set in this harmonised standard. This standard is based on OIML Recommendation 76 on non-automatic weighing instruments and considering this recommendation is being revised the standard needs a revision as well in one of the coming years. Additionally, the working group might start projects on standards for nationally regulated instruments. The first meeting took place on 24 March where CECIP was represented.

