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Covid as an Occupational disease

In its general assembly held on the 13 June 2020, UEMO strongly supports the initiative taken by the European Commission in proposing Directive (EU) 202/739 of 3rd June 2020, amending Annex III to Directive 2000/54/EC regarding the inclusion of SARS-CoV-2 in the list of biological agents known to infect humans and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833) that Covid-19 is considered as an occupational disease, of being a Grade 3 “high risk level”.

In recognition of the role played by Family Doctors / general practitioners being at the frontline of the epidemic, of being the first line of contact in the national health systems, of being the first line of consultation being given to patients before seeking hospitalisation, of keeping the of “Non-Covid related” medical service of all primary care, available when requested, this amendment must be passed with no delay, and be retroactive from the February 2020, at the start of the epidemic.

UEMO recognizes that Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Serbia, Sweden, Ireland, Finland (if contracted at work), Portugal, Belgium, France (between March and June) have already accepted this in their national legislation. UEMO expects that all European states adopt this amendment expeditiously.

