CESI Trade Council for Health Services demands for action concerning the Ebola crisis

The current Ebola crisis has shown that diseases that were thought to be eradicated are able to reemerge, in particular if insufficiently dealt with. The plague of Ebola which started on the African continent has spread to Europe where health care workers are dutifully and consciously fulfilling their tasks by taking care of affected patients. However, and despite prevention measures, a number of cases of infection have revealed how difficult it is to avoid infection. In such a situation, public authorities and governments must support and protect those who risk their life every day in order to save the lives of others, i.e. the nurses and doctors carrying out services of general interest.

It must therefore be ensured that health care sector workers do not only take care of infected patients and protect our societies from further contagion, but also benefit from sufficient support and protection themselves.

The CESI Trade Council for Health Services, in which different Trade Unions of the sector are represented, calls upon Member States and the European institutions to comply with the following 7 demands:

1) **The recognition of infections with Ebola as accident at the workplace and occupational illness**, disregarding the fact of how the virus has been acquired;
2) **Sufficient education and training** to enable health care workers to take the maximum protection measures while dealing with the virus and with patients;
3) **Extensive information** that allows health care workers to be fully aware of the risks and appropriate behavior of dealing with the Ebola virus;
4) **The availability of material resources** appropriate for biohazard level 4 in order to guarantee the highest protection standards available;

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5) **Professional and psychological attendance and assistance for health care workers** in order to cope with the social and professional impacts of an infection on themselves and their families;

6) **Prohibition for pregnant women to access risk zones** in order to protect themselves and unborn children;

7) **The establishment of adequate and effective prevention measures** that allows minimization of the risk of infection close to zero.