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Sr. Ministro,

Following the Spanish government's measure declaring the state of alarm in the kingdom of Spain to fight against the COVID-19, Physiotherapists, as health professionals, are still working in private practice in Spain.

Since it is the role of the Spanish Government to ensure the safety of all its citizens (Art 43 Constitution) Spanish Physiotherapists request the Government, through its national association AEF (Asociación Española de Fisioterapeutas) and with the support of the ERWCPT (European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy), to fulfill its role by ensuring the safety of those physiotherapists and patients in private practice by providing the material necessary for health professionals' protection and resources for decontaminating the centres between patient treatments, with the aim of stopping the spread of the virus, as is must be the case for professions working and being exposed to COVID-19.

If these protective measures cannot be ensured or provided by the national or regional authorities a formal decree should be issued directing the closure of all private physiotherapy centres in Spain. This should also apply to treatments other than private practices which are not urgent.

Physiotherapists, as health professionals, can continue playing a crucial role within the current circumstances if the government implements the right measures.

Physiotherapists can continue providing treatment to vulnerable groups of people with limited mobility/independence who are at greater risk in the longer term, in hospitals or in care giving centres.

Physiotherapists are also of vital importance for the recovery of patients with respiratory conditions including those with Covid-19 virus as well as advising the population to maintain their fitness and independence levels at this time.

The physiotherapist health workforce is working hard, with all the other health care professionals, in the fight against COVID-19, but cannot work unprotected or place patients at risk.

### **David GORRIA**

**General Secretary of the European Region WCPT**

***The European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that represents the physiotherapy profession at European Level.***

