# Riga, 17 March 2020

# Statement

by the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) and the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) supporting the Government’s action to limit the distribution of COVID-19 and reduce the impact of the crisis on businesses and workers of Latvia.

The social partners of the government – LDDK and LBAS – in the light of the Order of the Prime Minister K.Karins of 14 March 2020 on emergency situation to limit distribution of COVID-19 expressed confidence in the understanding of measures introduced by the government to reduce the spread of the disease.

LDDK and LBAS will continue to provide support to their members and will work in close cooperation with the government to represent the needs and interests of employers and workers.

The social partners’ organisations fully support the government measures that have been taken so far and call on the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima), the government and the Bank of Latvia and other institutions to do their best to ensure that as many companies as possible survive this crisis by keeping jobs and employing Latvian citizens, paying taxes and social contributions, thereby ensuring the state budget so that after the crisis it could help to rebuild Latvia’s economy and the social security system after the crisis caused by COVID-19.

The social partners’ organisations support the measures needed to limit further dissemination of COVID-19. Public health is the first priority and requires additional funding for the provision of services. We thank those working in the health sector who demonstrate their courage and endurance both in terms of treating the sick and in order to maintain the vital goods and services on which we are all dependent. The crisis caused by the global pandemic is not only a major challenge for public health but it will also have a significant negative impact on economic growth in 2020. In many sectors workers and businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises, are already experiencing the consequences of the restrictive measures introduced.

Social partners stress the need for:

* joint responsibility of the government, businesses, workers and citizens to ensure that all we are doing is helping to tackle this crisis;
* decisive action by the government to maintain our businesses in the near future, preserve jobs and prevent the development of a new wave of emigration;
* a responsible decision by politicians immediately ensuring 100% sick pay from the state budget.

We ask everyone to behave responsibly and with awareness and work together to minimize the economic and employment impact of the crisis caused by COVID-19.