The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, presents its compliments to diplomatic missions, consular posts as well as to international organizations established in Belgium and has the honour to provide them with clarifications on the reinforced measures regarding the COVID-19.

In the light the unfavourable epidemiological development, the National Security Council held on July 27 was forced to take more restrictive measures. These are reported in the press release of the Prime Minister of July 27, 2020.

These measures have an influence on the aspects previously mentioned in the notes of the Protocol Directorate "COVID-19/10" of July 13 and "COVID-19/11" of July 17, 2020: the organization of events; health measures and travel.

1. Organizing events and other basic rules.
   - **Wearing a mask** from the age of 12 also becomes compulsory outdoors, in high-traffic areas designated locally by the municipal authorities (for example: shopping streets, markets, etc.).
   - **Teleworking** becomes the norm again. International organizations and missions are encouraged to practice it as much as possible, taking into account their essential tasks and their organizational constraints.
   - If a city or a province locally imposes a curfew or other measures restricting movement, members of missions or international organizations who must travel there for professional reasons are invited to carry a supporting document issued by their employer: for example a certificate of functions or a verbal note. Although such a document is not formally mandatory, it is nevertheless strongly recommended.
   - **At the restaurant**, at least one customer per table must leave their contact details. This data may be limited to a telephone number or an e-mail address. This allows the competent authorities to notify the customer in case he/she has potentially come into contact with another contaminated customer. Personal data is used exclusively for this purpose and will be destroyed after 14 days.
   - The maximum number of participants in the following events is reduced:
     - social events with interaction between participants, such as a reception, a group photo,…: maximum 10 participants (previously: 50). The organizer is responsible for strict compliance with hygiene measures and social distancing.
     - social events without interaction between the participants, such as a conference, a cultural show… with an audience seated in respect of social distancing: maximum 100 participants inside and 200 participants outside (previously: 200/400). Outdoor activities should be preferred if possible; otherwise, the room must be sufficiently ventilated. A risk analysis model according to the type of event, as well as the appropriate measures, is available on the website www.covideventriskmodel.be.

2. Travel and associated health measures.
• The provisions of the note COVID-19/11 dd. 17th July remain applicable.

• In particular, travel ban to and from countries outside the EU+ (1) remain unchanged, as do the categories of people with an essential function or need, to whom these temporary restrictions do not apply within the framework of their function. Within the EU+, the evolution of the red and orange areas should be monitored day by day.

• National rules and possible measures in the country of destination must always be observed.

• In addition, from August 1st, 2020, all travelers coming to Belgium, whatever their status, their country of origin or their transportation means, must complete in advance the PLF: Passenger Locator Form, available online. (Before August 1st: all travelers from outside the Schengen area2). Exception: people who travel by other means than plane or boat and who stay less than 48 hours in Belgium or who have stayed less than 48 hours outside Belgium.

• The fourteen-day self-containment (quarantine) imposed on travelers coming from countries outside the EU+ or from containment zones inside the EU+, does not apply to people with an essential function, but only within the framework of activities strictly related to their function. The members of their families must respect the quarantine.

It is generally advised to observe the officially announced measures and to demonstrate common sense. Everyone has the individual and collective responsibility to respect these principles. Each diplomatic mission or international institution may always decide for itself to take more restrictive measures for their staff or visitors.

The Protocol Directorate of the FPS Foreign Affairs reiterates that, without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities have the duty to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, in particular the measures taken by authorities to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Protocol Directorate also recalls that targeted and practical information relating to COVID-19 measures that may have an impact on diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations, is updated and published on its webpage.

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation thanks the diplomatic missions, consular posts and international organizations established in Belgium for their co-operation, and avails itself of the opportunity to renew them the assurances of its highest consideration.

Done in Brussels on July 29th 2020.

To the diplomatic missions, consular posts and to international organizations established in Belgium

1 As a reminder: European Union, United Kingdom, four non-EU Schengen countries (Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) and four European micro-states (Andorra, Monaco, Saint-Marino, Holy See).
2 For travelers outside Schengen before August 1, a paper version of the PLF is available.