**MEDIA ADVISORY**

20 February 2020

**FESPA POSITION RE: COVID-19**

FESPA Global Print Expo 2020 will take place as scheduled from 24-27 March 2020 at IFEMA – Feria de Madrid, Spain, along with the co-located exhibitions, European Sign Expo 2020 and Sportswear Pro 2020.

FESPA takes the concerns of exhibitors, visitors and partners regarding the outbreak of COVID-19 (also known as novel coronavirus) very seriously. Safety is always first priority, and FESPA wishes to take proactive steps to minimise the risks to all participants at the March 2020 events in Madrid. As such, the FESPA Board and Senior Management Team is actively monitoring all developments relating to COVID-19, guided by latest information from WHO (World Health Organisation).

**Exhibiting companies from China**

With effect from 20.2.2020, FESPA is formally contacting all exhibiting companies from China at the three Madrid 2020 exhibitions, requiring that they provide documented evidence that all representatives of their company attending the exhibitions, including sub-contractors, have not resided in or visited China at any time after 5th March 2020. This represents a two-week period preceding the beginning of the build-up of the exhibitions.

FESPA believes that this proactive policy is in the best interests of the health and well-being of exhibitors, attendees, partners and staff (as well as the general public in the host city of Madrid).

FESPA recognises the importance of the Madrid 2020 exhibitions to the exhibitor community within China and has made every effort to minimise the disruption and impact to these companies.

Exhibiting companies from China not fulfilling this requirement will not be able to participate at the Madrid 2020 exhibitions, and their options are being clearly communicated to them in writing by FESPA’s representatives in China.

**Other exhibitors and visitors**

FESPA is in contact with all exhibitors and pre-registered visitors at the Madrid 2020 exhibitions to advise them of these measures and to request that they should not attend if they have visited China after 5th March 2020. This information will also be published on the event websites and on the main FESPA website, and communicated via the FESPA National Associations.

**Measures at IFEMA**

FESPA is working closely with IFEMA and with the relevant authorities in Madrid to provide exhibitors and visitors to the FESPA 2020 events with the relevant support and guidance.

IFEMA has protocols linked to those established both by the World Health Organisation and by the national Spanish Ministry of Health and regional Council of Health of the Community of Madrid regarding first-line actions to be taken should a case of infection by this virus be detected within its facilities.

Similarly, IFEMA has increased the health measures it takes, and is in constant contact with the authorities through its two Medical Service units, which are equipped to provide immediate medical attention during its events. Should a case be detected, it is, in turn, prepared to activate the appropriate protocol and refer the affected person to the reference hospital for observation and attention.

In addition, IFEMA's other preventive measures include expanding the signage for the two Medical Service units, so that people attending an event are aware of their existence and better able to locate them, if necessary.

The dissemination of the WHO recommendations has also been reinforced and these are visible at all strategic points of passage, where the location and emergency telephone number of IFEMA's Medical Service are also provided.

Hygiene measures in different parts of the premises have also been implemented and expanded by providing assistants with sanitary soap dispensers, as recommended by WHO, as well as strengthening the cleaning services of the facilities.

FESPA CEO Neil Felton comments: “By taking this proactive step with regard to our exhibiting companies to China, our aim is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of every participant at our FESPA 2020 events to the best of our abilities, while also providing strong reassurance to our exhibitor and visitor communities. We look forward to a vibrant and successful event in Madrid in March.”

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**About FESPA**

Founded in 1962, FESPA is a global federation of Associations for the screen printing, digital printing and textile printing community. FESPA’s dual aim is to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to share knowledge about screen and digital printing with its members across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and learn about the latest developments in their fast growing industries.

**FESPA Profit for Purpose**
The shareholders are the industry. FESPA has invested millions of Euros into the global printing community over the last seven years, supporting the growth of the market. For more information visit [www.fespa.com](http://www.fespa.com)

**FESPA Print Census**

The FESPA Print Census is a global research project to understand the wide format, screen and digital print community. It is the largest data gathering project of its kind.

**Forthcoming FESPA events include:**

* FESPA Brasil, 18-20 March 2020, Expo Center Norte, São Paulo, Brasil
* FESPA Global Print Expo, 24-27 March 2020, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain
* European Sign Expo, 24-27 March 2020, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain
* Sportswear Pro, 24-27 March 2020, IFEMA, Madrid, Spain
* FESPA Global Print Expo, 18-21 May 2021, Messe München, Munich, Germany
* European Sign Expo, 18-21 May 2021, Messe München, Munich, Germany

**Issued on behalf of FESPA by AD Communications**

**For further information, please contact:**

Imogen Woods/Shireen Shurmer Neil Felton

AD Communications FESPA

Tel: + 44 (0) 1372 464470 Tel: +44 (0) 1737 240788

Email: iwoods@adcomms.co.uk