

European salt industry: a critical and essential sector

The world is facing an unprecedented health crisis, which authorities at all levels and across all countries are currently trying to solve.

EUsalt members appreciate the European Commission's efforts in handling the COVID-19 crisis. EUsalt particularly welcomes the adoption of the Commission "Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services" (C [2020] 1753) where **food and medical supplies are named essential goods**. EUsalt members consider that, with their products, **salt producers and their supply chains play an essential role in the management of the crisis**.

The member companies of EUsalt produce salt, which is indispensable for supplying the population in not only the agricultural and food sectors, but also medical, pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. High-purity salts are essential for the production of a broad range of pharmaceuticals and chemicals for use in key sectors such as the water treatment and chlorine industry or the plastic or glass materials industry. **Salt is therefore needed on a daily basis**.

Despite the current crisis, the production of salt continues. The approximately 9000 people employed by the salt sector are aware of their responsibility. They show enormous commitment and continue to work under additional safety and protective measures.

Salt production, as the first step in the supply chain for the above-mentioned sectors, takes place at production sites all over the European Union. In order to supply the different industries across Europe, large quantities of products are transported within the region by road, rail and inland waterways. Unfortunately, in the last weeks, European salt producers have encountered **problems with placing their products on the market. These products are essential in the food and feed production as well as crucial for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry**.

Therefore, the European Commission's **help vis a vis Member States** is needed to prevent such problems in the future.