TO ALL NATIONAL COMMITTEES
AND SESSION DELEGATES

Paris, March 4th, 2020

CIGRE 2020 SESSION & COVID-19

1. Background

In view of the spread of the new Coronavirus Covid-19, CIGRE is issuing the following guidelines, which will also be posted on the CIGRE website and regularly reviewed and revised based on recommendations from WHO and the French government.

2. Current situation of the Covid-19 in France

- France, like many other countries, has now identified many cases of people infected with Covid-19: most of them are cured, four have died, and the others are being treated in hospitals.

- To limit the spread of the virus, the French government has decided to take drastic measures: limiting the movement of people in certain areas identified as outbreaks of the virus, forbidding events gathering more than 5000 persons.

- It is worth mentioning that the closing of the Louvre museum on Sunday March 1st was not a decision of the government, but a demand of the employees exercising their right to withdraw.

- Within one month, we should see the results of these measures of containment on the spread of the virus, considering that the incubation time is 14 days.

3. Some immediate actions of CIGRE regarding the 2020 Session

- If the situation were to last beyond May, CIGRE would then consider extending the "early bird" tariff by one month.

- The Palais des Congrès de Paris has already announced support for the event organisers, recommendations to attendees, and local and national measures to limit the spread.

- In case of cancelling, CIGRE will fully refund the registration fee to the delegates.

- Similar conditions are in the exhibitors’ contracts.
4. CIGRE policy regarding the 2020 Session

• CIGRE currently has no plan to postpone or cancel the Session Paris, which remains scheduled to take place in August despite some major current event being cancelled across Europe and in France over the past few days.

• The Central Office is keeping abreast of developments and considering all the options we may face in the near future.

• Together with the Office Bearers, the Central Office is considering the conditions and decision process to cancel or postpone the Session.

• For instance, any decision should be based on governmental edicts, but the lack of attendance due to countries not allowing travel to Paris, may lead CIGRE to cancel or postpone the event, even if France allows it.

• The Steering Committee will meet in May 2020, with this topic on its agenda.

• It will consider seeking a vote by the Administrative Council that delegates to the Steering Committee this decision by electronic vote, so that the decision is made in a collegial manner.

• The policy will cover all other aspects including like refunds, contractual obligations, insurance, etc.

• The decision to attend the Paris Session is of course a personal decision by our delegates, guests and exhibitors. All should seek information from their respective employers, governmental and health authorities in order to make informed decisions at the appropriate time.

Best regards

Philippe ADAM
Secretary General