



FEDERATION et FORUM EUROPEENS pour L'OSTEOPATHIE a.i.s.b.l
EUROPEAN FEDERATION and FORUM for OSTEOPATHY i.n.p.a.

7 January 2021

President
The Dutch Association for Osteopathy (NVO)

We write with reference to your request for information about osteopathic services across Europe during COVID-19. We can confirm that osteopaths are permitted to provide patient care across all other countries in Western Europe at this stage, throughout the various forms of social lockdown that is being used to manage infection risk.

The European Federation and Forum for Osteopathy (E.F.F.O) is an organisation that represents the professional associations of osteopaths from 22 European countries, as well as from Canada and Israel. The Dutch Association for Osteopathy (NVO) are well respected members of the E.F.F.O.

The progress of legal recognition of osteopaths started in Europe in 1993 with the UK Osteopaths' Act. Since then 11 other European countries have followed the UK lead in recognising and developing regulation for osteopaths, including Finland, France, Portugal, Liechtenstein, Malta, Iceland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Cyprus and most recently Norway. Italy have also now recognised the status of osteopaths as an independent healthcare profession, and are working towards regulation.

Osteopathy is an independent healthcare primary healthcare profession and to our current knowledge, osteopaths are allowed to practise, as primary healthcare profession, in all European countries, beside the Netherlands.

We strongly urge the Dutch government, as with other governments across Europe, to recognise and regulate osteopathy as an independent, primary healthcare profession.

We would be very pleased to provide further information on the issues we have referenced in this statement as required.

With kind regards

Hanna Tómasdóttir
President

Maurice Cheng
Chief Executive