

Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear President von der Leyen,

EUnited represents machinery and equipment suppliers in Europe. In particular, the membership is made up of manufacturers of robotics, municipal equipment, professional cleaning equipment and vehicle cleaning equipment.

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, coupled with the essential steps taken by national governments and the EU in an attempt to contain it have presented our industries with an unprecedented challenge. Indeed, we know that numerous companies have been forced to stop production completely as well as supply, logistics, after sales services, and R&D in order to safeguard the health of their colleagues, partners and customers.

Whilst it is impossible for anyone to know what the consequences of these actions will be, we do know that in order to support our industries today, and to preserve their future, it is necessary to take certain steps **immediately**.

Having said this, we do recognise the important work that the Commission is doing, particularly in relation to the development of necessary economic support packages, together with Member States and the European Central Bank. In addition, we continue to fully support the objectives of the green and digital transformations that are underway, and which are by no means less important than when they were announced just a few short weeks ago. Nevertheless, some practical steps need to be taken - including in relation to existing and upcoming legislation - in order to allow EUnited's member companies to cope with this unprecedented challenge.

To be precise, we are asking for the following:

1. To address **additional financial support** to the areas of Europe worst hit by the COVID-19 virus, such as in Italy and Spain. Without such support companies operating in these regions have almost no chance of survival and this will have a devastating effect on both the local and wider European economy;
2. To **review deadlines for entry into force** of certain pieces of legislation, so as to allow companies to focus on staying operational for the sake of the economy and their workforce, rather than being concerned about compliance with new rules;
3. To **take into account the new economic reality** for large parts of European Industry, but in particular **engineering Industries**, which have been particularly hard hit, when reviewing pieces of legislation. Many ideas under discussion in legislation which affects our industries will require large investments to be made, in order to ensure compliance in the future. Instead, in these circumstances, ongoing reviews should focus on unlocking the potential of new

technologies and local production and - in so doing - allowing European industry to remain competitive.

4. Linked to the above point, we ask that **decision-making be postponed concerning ongoing discussions on regulatory files** until physical meetings can be resumed. It is necessary to appreciate the impact that the lack of possibility to meet physically can have in the development of technical discussions. The quality of discussion is far more difficult to safeguard when replacing such meetings with conference calls;
5. To further facilitate the movement of goods, economic activity and production. EUnited is committed to **keeping the EU borders open for goods traffic, commuters and service employees**. Only in this way can logistics and supply chains function so as to ensure machines and systems be delivered and kept operational;
6. To **secure liquidity for companies**, as well as introducing safeguarding measures. Companies must be in a liquid state in order not to become a target for takeovers;
7. To provide for a **longer transition period for the development of cybersecurity schemes** and their introduction according to the Cybersecurity Act;
8. To **postpone/extend the existing 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 deadline, for the registration into the EHCA SCIP database** of extensive chemical data for parts of machinery. As a result of the severe impact of recent events on materials supply chains our companies will not be able to deliver the required testing (due to lab closures) nor evidence and data due to the impact on our partners in the supply chain.

Again, we cannot predict the future, but already it is becoming clear that the road to recovery will be extensive and challenging. We remain entirely at the Commission's disposal to develop creative solutions to meet this unprecedented challenge.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Häusermann  
EUnited President



Jethro Schiansky  
EUnited Executive Director  
[jethro.schiansky@eu-nited.net](mailto:jethro.schiansky@eu-nited.net)