



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES
Chemicals and Consumer Industries
The Director

Brussels
GROW.D.3/MP/so (2020) 2572143

Susanne Döring
Secretary General
AIBI
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Dear Ms Döring,

Thank you for sharing the letter of the members of the Bread-Initiative with President von der Leyen, in which the members signal the difficulties experienced by the bread and bakery industry in Europe in relation to the COVID-19 crisis. The President has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Let me first of all say that we really appreciate all information coming from businesses and their representatives: it helps us to respond to problems swiftly and effectively.

The European Commission is doing everything in its power to protect and support citizens and businesses in the current critical circumstances. We are closely monitoring the situation as regards disruptions in supply chains and the free circulation of goods in the Single Market remains a top priority for us. We are working together with the Member States to ensure that the issues you describe are acted upon in a timely and co-ordinated manner. The EU “Guidelines for border measures”¹ and practical advice with regard to implementation of Green Lanes² are the first steps and the Commission is in continuous contact with national authorities to make sure these are followed.

I fully understand the difficulties EU businesses, including the bread and bakery sector, are experiencing. The Commission is working on a comprehensive economic response³, including important liquidity measures to support hard-hit European small and medium-sized enterprises like bakeries and bakery shops. We have also set up a temporary framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, among other measures.

¹https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf

²https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/2020-03-23-communication-green-lanes_en.pdf

³https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en#economicmeasures

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that we fully acknowledge the importance and challenges faced by your sector. The Commission will continue to act swiftly and proactively do everything in its power to ensure that the food supply chain continues to function as smoothly as possible in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Carlo PETTINELLI