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Sent: mercredi 27 mai 2020 11:26
To: CAB BRETON CONTACT
Subject: URGENT REQUEST_ Steel Industry

Dear Commissioner Breton

As you are aware, the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in March has created an unprecedented economic crisis severely hitting the European steel industry: overall EU steel demand has collapsed by more than 50 % (notably demand from automotive went down by 70-80%), European steel producers are cutting production drastically (by up to 40%). This crisis is having a dramatic impact on jobs: 40% of the European steel workforce is already on temporarily lay-offs and reduced working time. Given the uncertainty about the immediate future, even if some industrial sectors like automotive may look to restart activity, steel demand is very unlikely to pick up sufficiently to provide any relief to our sector in the short or medium term.

Considering the global nature of the crisis, the risk of deflection of exports towards the EU market – the reason why the safeguard action was taken considering the global excess capacity and the U.S. Section 232 import tariff in particular - has only increased. Steel industries in other countries do not suffer the same impact as in the EU.

I would like to request for your strong voice in raising this concern towards Commissioner Hogan, in light of the steel safeguard review, to consider the need to further modify the Commission's draft Proposal to address the key points requested by the EU steel industry.

I would also very much appreciate if I could discuss with you as soon as possible in a meeting or call the political frame work conditions for the CO2 reduction like Border Adjustment and the support measures for the recovery of the economy.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

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