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Ursula von der Leyen

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– Dear Commission President, sehr geehrte Frau von der Leyen,

We are reaching out to you today to thank you in the name of Siemens Healthineers AG for having organized a meeting with the European industry leaders. I am pleased that [REDACTED] had the opportunity to present Siemens AG and Siemens Healthineers response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The spread of COVID-19 poses unique challenges for societies around the world. As a global medical technology company, we stand by you and all our partners in the healthcare system and support you with our continued and focused commitment in the fight against this pandemic.



While we understand that the focus of today's discussion was on the production of ventilators and PPE, representing the most immediate need for Europeans now and in the immediate future, we would like to highlight Siemens Healthineers engagement [REDACTED]

We are working around the clock to deliver medical and laboratory devices, such [REDACTED]

In these critical times, we consider it of the utmost importance to ensure the free flow not only of goods, but also of people and critical staff like our services and manufacturing site employees.

[REDACTED] However, we are facing more and more challenges and would like to find a system to proactively identify and mitigate any supply risks in the early stages.

We would therefore ask you to consider supporting the following measures:

1. Keep the internal market open: we welcome the guidelines on transport and green lanes, in addition we need clear guidance to Member States on allowing free flow of critical personnel (such as service engineers that are denied access to countries or requested to endure 14 days of quarantine).
Also, we need to ensure common understanding on what constitute essential production, in order to not endanger critical supply in Europe (e.g. suppliers and spare parts for medical goods).
2. Maintain the global supply chains: keep the channels with Asia and the US open and set up a system to proactively identify and mitigate supply risks and impact on prices.
3. Ensure a fair allocation of essential supplies: we welcome the coordination role the EU is playing on procurement for ventilators and the rescEU stockpile of medical equipment. Does the EU plan to set up additional stockpiles or joint procurement, e.g. for hemostasis machines or imaging devices?
4. Support the healthcare systems across Europe: we also welcome the announcement of the mobilization of 37 billion euros of Cohesion funds to help the healthcare systems of the most affected regions. We look forward to receiving additional information concerning how the resources will be allocated.
5. Minimize the regulatory burdens in the fight against COVID-19, 



Finally, let me congratulate you on the work of the Commissions' services. We are very grateful for the European Commission' willingness to exchange, listen and provide support to our colleagues on a work-level. When we reach out with day-to-day challenges, we are also grateful for the guidance you are issuing, as well as the Friday weekly pandemic meetings with Commissioners Kyriakides and Breton.

Our aspiration to drive innovations forward so people live healthier and longer lives is more valid today than ever before. All 53,000 employees of Siemens Healthineers are fully committed to supporting the fight against COVID-19 as well as the continuous functioning of the healthcare systems and to provide the best possible care for patients.

My team and I personally remain available for further information and consultation in the future.

Sincerely



 CEO
Siemens Healthineers AG

Copy to:
Commissioner Thierry Breton
Commissioner Elisa Ferreira
Commissioner Phil Hogan
Commissioner Stella Kyriakides
Commissioner Janez Lenarčič