



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission

Brussels,
grow.01(2020)2250955

Dear [REDACTED]

The President of the European Commission has asked me to reply to your letter of 25 March on her behalf. I would like to thank you for the commitment Siemens Healthineers AG is showing in fighting this pandemic and for your readiness to exchange and find solutions with the Commission. Your contribution to the ongoing discussion on the digitalisation of healthcare is also appreciated and your valuable input will feed into our internal reflections.

In these critical times, the support of all actors is essential and the cooperation between industry and the Commission is key to addressing the crisis. We need to act with urgency, solidarity and audacity. The Commission is working on all fronts to support efforts to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and is using all the instruments at its disposal to mitigate its consequences. This includes ongoing coordination with Member States to share information, assess needs and ensure a coherent EU-wide response. In the past weeks, the Commission has worked tirelessly to ensure, in particular, that goods and cross-border workers can continue to move across the EU and keep hospitals functioning.

The Commission set up the first ever common European reserve of medical equipment to help EU countries face the coronavirus pandemic, with a total budget of EUR 380 million. From this RescEU stockpile, already 330,000 FFP2 masks have now been delivered to Italy, Spain and Croatia. More deliveries will follow. In parallel, four joint procurements with Member States were launched for personal protective equipment, ventilators, laboratory equipment and test kits. The Commission will continue to assess the need for future stockpiles and joint procurements and will act accordingly, based on the needs assessed and expressed by Member States.

While significant progress has been made and the biggest bottlenecks were addressed, work must continue: production and availability of medical supplies is an essential part of the exit strategy. The dialogue with all parties concerned must be maintained and we count on your contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Thierry Breton

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