

Mr. Denis Redonnet
Chief Trade Enforcement Officer
European Commission
Directorate - General for Trade
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 31 July 2020

Ref: NM/KB-67862

Dear Mr. Redonnet,

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF TRADE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

On behalf of EFPIA, representing research-based pharmaceutical industry in Europe, I would like to extend my congratulations on your formal appointment as Chief Trade Enforcement Officer and Deputy Director General.

EFPIA welcomes the strong commitment of the new Commission to focus on the implementation of the EU's free trade agreements and addressing distorting trade barriers in third countries. Our member companies operate across the globe and therefore we believe that it is critically important that FTA provisions on e.g. intellectual property are duly enforced and that forced localisation policies or discriminatory procurement practices in third countries are eliminated. This will not only support fair and transparent market access for EU business, but also ensure timely access for patients to the latest medicines and treatments, both in Europe and beyond.

Over the past years, we have been actively engaging with the European Commission's negotiating teams in various free trade negotiation processes, including working with DG Trade through the Market Access Advisory Committee, which has provided a platform to discuss and address market access barriers in third countries. To this end, we are very encouraged to see the establishment of a single-point of contact and a new dedicated directorate to address market access barriers in third countries and the implementation and monitoring of EU FTAs.



EFPIA Brussels Office
Leopold Plaza Building * Rue du Trône 108
B-1050 Brussels * Belgium
Tel: + 32 (0)2 626 25 55 *
www.efpia.eu * info@efpia.eu



As part of the Market Access work stream, we have also been having a constructive discussion with your services regarding COVID-19 and Trade. As you may know, the pharmaceutical industry is one of the EU sectors contributing the most to the EU trade balance, and we look forward to working with you on enhancing and highlighting the role of Trade Policy in the post-COVID recovery. In this context, we believe that the EU's trade policy should play to the EU's strengths to create strategic resilience: trade, innovation and high-level standards and regulations. The EU should continue to stand for the global rules-based trading system and tackle the growing threat of forced localization of manufacturing. Strategic resilience will be key, as well as an evolving EU R&D infrastructure which would enable patients in Europe and across the world to have better and faster access to innovative medicines, while ensuring that the EU stays globally competitive.

In this context, we very much look forward to continue working with you in your new capacity on these matters. My members and I would be very grateful for the opportunity to meet with you in order to further elaborate on the above-mentioned points. To this end, I would like to extend an invitation for a digital exchange of views with our International Board Sponsored Committee, comprised of senior-level executives, on 8 September at 15:30- 16:00. Further to your availability to join us on 8 September, we would of course also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you either via digital means or in person later in the Autumn to follow-up on the meeting more in detail.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance for your time and kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[Art. 4.1 (b)]

[Art. 4.1 (b)]



EFPIA Brussels Office
Leopold Plaza Building * Rue du Trône 108
B-1050 Br * um
Tel: + 32 [Art. 4.1 (b)] *
www.efpia.eu * efpia.eu

