



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:38 PM
To: DOMBROVSKIS Valdis (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS)
Cc: HAGER Michael (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS)
Subject: We need to focus on the essential

Dear Vice-President, dear Valdis,

As already raised in our video conference this Wednesday (and in principle supported by other Social Partners) the handling of the sanitary and economic impacts of this crisis will require to orient all our energy and resources to the essential. You know how much we value all the efforts undertaken by the European Commission, Council, Member States and the ECB in order to handle this crisis and to address its heavy economic and social consequences.

The crisis comes at a moment where the European institutions are working out a series of important new initiatives in a wide range of policy fields. Overcoming the COVID 19 crisis will require the mobilisation of all our energies and resources. Avoiding adding burdens on enterprises is absolutely essential to make sure that as many enterprises as possible survive and to allow our economy and society as a whole to recover once this crisis is overcome.

Stakeholders consultations, which are extremely difficult in present circumstances need to be postponed or also focus on the essential.

Several member states clearly announced that they will focus on the essential and put other important initiatives on hold. For example, in France, President Macron announced that he would suspend ongoing discussions on pending reforms such as the pension reform. In Spain, the government decided to postpone a range of on-going initiatives which were subject to public consultations.

We call on the European Commission (and all other EU institutions) to follow a similar approach and to:

- concentrate all efforts on essential actions to mitigate the health and economic impacts of the COVID19 crisis,
- put on hold all pending EU initiatives that could increase costs for companies or divert resources away from the fight against COVID 19,
- postpone on-going and soon-to-come public consultations at EU level;
- refrain from developing new measures that risk creating new

- burdens on enterprises,
- factor in the effects of the COVID 19 crisis when assessing the impact of all pending and future EU initiatives as this is a real game changer.

We also think that we will have to take an intelligent look at the work program in the light of new realities once the worst will hopefully be over.

Focusing on the essential will be key to make sure we will be able to master this crisis. Throughout the last days specifically a couple of consultations have been sent out by the Commission with short deadlines. This gives wrongly the impression that the Commission continues to act on a business as usual mode like if nothing had happened.

Thank you for taking our concerns into account and for raising our concerns at highest level within the Commission. We will also include these concerns into our message to the European leaders' videoconference next week.

Don't hesitate to come back to me if you need any further clarifications.

Best regards,

