



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES
Chemicals and Consumer Industries
The Director

Brussels
GROW.D.3/BP/so Ares(2020)3029445

[REDACTED]
FoodDrinkEurope

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]@fooddrinkeurope.eu

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter addressed to Commissioner Breton on the impact of COVID-19 on the food and drinks sector. The Commissioner has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Commissioner Breton highly values the contribution of your sector to ensuring the continuity of food supply in the EU and the dialogue with FoodDrinkEurope and its members.

Regarding the EU response to Covid-19, the Commission has put forward an ambitious Recovery plan¹ for Europe based on the Next Generation EU recovery instrument and on the future Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. A number of instruments will be mobilised to ensure an effective EU response covering all sectors of the economy, including the food and drink industry, and especially SMEs.

Furthermore, the Commission has issued a Tourism and Transport Package² covering the re-opening of hospitality and food service, to which your sector is closely related. We acknowledge the Joint Statement by FoodDrinkEurope and its social partners EFFAT³, and the Hospitality sectors HOTREC⁴ and FoodServiceEurope, concerning out-of-home consumption. We take due account the importance of the recovery of the HORECA⁵ sector, for food and drink producers, and welcome co-operation between the food and drink industry and food service operators in this respect.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/recovery-plan-europe_en



² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_854

³ European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism

⁴ Association of Hotels, Restaurants, Pubs and Cafes and similar establishments in Europe

⁵ Hotels, restaurants and catering

Finally, we have seen that in times of crisis, it has been even more important to ensure a properly functioning Internal Market. The Commission remains committed to doing everything within its competences to work with Member States to preserve the integrity of the Single market and allow smooth functioning of intra and extra EU trade.

Should you wish to further exchange on these issues, please contact my colleague 
 [@ec.europa.eu](mailto: [redacted]@ec.europa.eu)) who will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Carlo PETTINELLI