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industriAll EUROPEAN TRADE UNION

Brussels, 8 September 2020

[redacted]

European Commission
Boulevard Charlemagne 170
1000 Bruxelles

By email to: [redacted]

CC.: [redacted]

RE.: European stainless steel workers call for urgent action to protect European jobs

Dear [redacted]**,**

We are contacting you on behalf of thousands of European stainless steel workers who are extremely concerned about the future of the sector and their jobs.

The European stainless steel sector is being suffocated by unfair international trade which continues to decrease production in the EU (8% in 2019), while the market share of imports of hot-rolled products has reached an all-time high (40.7% in 2019). This situation can no longer continue, and the European Commission must ensure international fair trade for the sake of European jobs.

The stainless steel sector is responsible for around **200,000 direct jobs in Europe** and thousands more in the supply chain. It is vital that these high-quality jobs are safeguarded, European citizens should not be made to suffer due to the unfair and aggressive trade policy of non-EU countries, such as Indonesia's export ban on nickel. **European workers expect the European Commission to take all relevant action to tackle unjustified bans on much needed raw materials and other unfair trade issues.** As an example, we include a recent press release from **Aperam's European Works Council**.

We are aware that the stainless steel industry representatives have submitted both an anti-subsidy complaint (AS660- China and Indonesia) and an anti-dumping complaint (AD658- China, Indonesia and Taiwan) to the European Commission on hot-rolled stainless steel products. **We urge the Commission to take a tough stance and stand up for the European stainless steel sector and its workers.**

Furthermore, although we welcome the implementation of the steel safeguard measures, which remain greatly needed, we ask the European Commission to urgently **strengthen these measures in line with the decrease in production and demand in Europe.** We must prevent thousands of tonnes of cheap steel being dumped on the open EU market which will lead to **job losses in Europe.**

Finally, it should not be forgotten that in Europe, we continue to push for **high labour and environmental standards** in the sector, and as such, we should be proud of the manner in which

stainless steel is produced in Europe. European producers continue to develop technology and processes to lower emissions and produce cleaner steel in line with the European Commission's European Green Deal. The same standards cannot be seen in stainless steel companies outside Europe.

We call on the European Commission to take the strongest possible action to tackle unfair international trade and safeguard the European stainless steel industry and its workers. We remain at your disposal to discuss the matter further at your earliest convenience.

Your sincerely,

industriAll Europe