



**Thierry Breton**  
Commissioner for Internal Market  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Commissioner Breton,

We are writing to share with you our frustration about the inaction from the European Commission on industry's emergency request to postpone the transition deadlines for non-road mobile machinery and tractors. Manufacturers trustfully procured and manufactured transition engines up to last year, anticipating normal business conditions. Ignoring our call for support today adds an avoidable European industrial crisis to a global pandemic.

In our letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March – please see attached for more details – we raised the joint concerns of thousands of companies that are not able to manufacture and place on the market their machines by the Regulation deadlines because of COVID-19 shutting down factories. Despite collaborative dialogue with the DG GROW services, three weeks later we are still waiting for concrete action: our member companies are stripped of much-needed ability to plan ahead and certainty by lack of action from the EU's political leadership.

Let us stress and reassure potential critics that any postponement will have absolutely no impact from an air quality point of view, as no more transition engines can be made for our industries. On the other hand, having to scrap thousands of already stocked engines will have a negative impact on the environment because of raw materials and chemicals not being always recyclable.

From an economic point of view, our globally competitive sectors employ millions of people and generate billions of Euros in added-value. Our members manufacture essential machines for our economy's basic needs, but their existence is now threatened by the unintended consequences of this EU Regulation and a lack of political consideration by this European Commission.

We believe the current lack of action is in stark contrast with the strategic understanding identified in the New Industrial Strategy for Europe, which our respective organisations have called for and supported. Indeed, the unchanged application of these transition deadlines will mean hundreds of million Euros in net losses and tens of billions in lost turnover. This will directly convert into thousands of qualified manufacturing jobs being destroyed at local level and a relevant loss in global market share, which Europe's global competitors will waste no time in taking over.

In brief, the blind application of the end of transition dates in this EU Regulation in times of COVID-19 equals to shooting ourselves in the foot and cripple Europe's industries you have pledged to support. By acting swiftly and decisively, you would provide industry with much needed concrete support in this specific emergency phase. Indeed, with only 51 working days left before the 30<sup>th</sup> June and



factories in shutdown, our member companies are putting a lot of pressure on us and a lot of hope on you.

During this period of crisis, it has been proven that decisions can be taken rapidly, including at EU level. We understand that a proposal for a Regulation to postpone the deadlines is already prepared. Therefore, it is just a matter of political will to have it approved by the EU Institutions through a fast-track procedure.

As you are engaged in direct talks with other European economic sectors in this moment of emergency, we stand ready and look forward to having such a dialogue with you.

Your sincerely,

**Riccardo Viaggi**  
Secretary General  
CECE

**Jérôme Bandry**  
Secretary General  
CEMA

**Anne Claire Rasselet**  
Secretary General  
EGMF

**Frank Diedrich**  
Managing Director  
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**Paul Blything**  
Director General  
EuropGen

**Olivier Janin**  
Secretary General  
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