



Nautical products in the Single Market under COVID-19

Brussels, April 28th 2020

To the attention of the Commissioner for the Internal Market, Mr. Thierry Breton,

Dear Commissioner,

The current internal EU border closures are producing widespread negative effects on the nautical sector and on the delivery of its products. The sector employs 280.000 workers across the EU and 95% of its companies are SMEs, supporting local jobs. It is therefore essential that these companies continue to deliver to customers. Maintaining production is capital for the liquidity of manufacturers and all companies along the supply chain, which supports jobs in an industry that is already severely affected by COVID-19.

Any negative impact will be particularly felt in coastal and peripheral regions, islands, and along inland waterways where companies from the sector are primarily located. As this sector has a strong seasonal nature, it is essential that it is supported at EU and national level.

One of the most severe limitation for nautical companies nowadays concerns the means of delivery of the final products. Several Member States have obliged companies to use lorries for deliveries as a reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak, but it should be noted that recreational boats cannot always be transported by lorry. We therefore urge you to protect the Single Market, the liquidity of its enterprises and jobs by clarifying that delivery of nautical products should be possible by whichever means suitable. This should include delivery of boats directly by sea, lorry, trailer, and collection by the customer, avoiding any excessive measures or additional burden. We would kindly ask you to clarify this and communicate it to the Member States in the context of the *Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services* (C(2020) 1753 final).

Sincerely yours



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