



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Thierry Breton
Member of the Commission

To the attention of MEPs:

Ivan ŠTEFANEC, EPP
Andreas SCHWAB, EPP
Maria GRAPINI, S&D
Sven SCHULZE, EPP
Markus PIEPER, EPP
Vladimír BILČÍK, EPP
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Alviina ALAMETSÄ, Greens/EFA
Miriam LEXMANN, EPP
Javier NART, Renew

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Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May highlighting the difficulties faced by European technology and machinery companies when it comes to providing their services cross-border during the Covid-19 crisis.

The Commission is aware of the challenges encountered by companies to offer services across the single market, due to the extraordinary measures taken by Member States to control and fight the pandemic. This has been particularly true for activities that require workers and service providers physically to cross borders, including in the sectors you highlight.

From the onset, it has been our common goal to safeguard the functioning of the single market and minimise the disruptions caused by the pandemic. This is of utmost importance to the EU economy and its recovery. At the same time, there have of course been necessary precautions by Member States to keep people safe.

The Commission has taken action to restore the mobility of workers as well as to provide support for companies, including through common principles for border management, guidelines on the free movement of workers¹ and through a number of economic measures². On 13 May, the Commission put forward a phased and coordinated approach for safely restoring freedom of movement and lifting internal border controls³.

As the road to recovery has begun, many Member States have re-opened their borders or are planning to do so in the near future. Still, we are aware that challenges remain given the remaining containment measures across the EU. We will continue to work with Member States to limit the impact of remaining internal border controls and other restrictions on the functioning of the single market.

At the end of May, the Commission presented its proposal for a Recovery Plan for Europe aiming to kick-start the economy and help private investment, including by supporting key sectors and technologies in the recovery phase. Together with the gradual restoring of a well-functioning single market, I am convinced that these actions will benefit companies and the European economy at large.

Yours faithfully,



Thierry Breton

¹ Guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers during COVID-19 outbreak: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020XC0330\(03\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020XC0330(03)&from=EN)

² Please refer to the website https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/overview-commissions-response_en#economic-measures

³ C(2020) 3250 final, available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_freemovement.pdf