



Brussels, 18 March 2020

To: European Commission President
Ms Ursula von der Leyen
Rue de la Loi 200
1000 Brussels

Cc : Internal Market Commissioner, Mr Thierry Breton
Health & Food Safety Commissioner, Ms Stella Kyriakides

Subject: Supply of essential packaging - Hygiene and health are compulsory

Dear President von der Leyen,

I would like firstable to thank you for strenuously working to fight CoVid19 and ensuring a coordination at European level of the necessary efforts to protect citizens' health and wellbeing. Difficult times are a strain for all of us, all industries, and we must be more united if we want to successfully leave all of this behind us.

In particular, EuPC has appreciated the recent publication of the **"Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services"**. Essential goods have been identified in food supplies including livestock, vital medical and protective equipment and supplies. However, we would like to raise the attention also to something that often is not considered as a good itself, plastic packaging.

Plastic packaging have the function to protect and preserve the item packed with it, often it become secondary or invisible to the latter. Nonetheless, it is thanks to packaging that any item is well kept from dirt, humidity or human contact. Plastic packaging is an essential good for which control measures should not undermine the continuity of economic activity and preserve the operation of supply chains. Unobstructed transport of plastic packaging alone is crucial to maintain availability of the items that will be packed with that packaging in order to reach the final consumers alllover Europe.





For this reason, **EuPC kindly ask you to ensure the availability and supply of plastic resins for packaging, for pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical application; and to ensure transport of finished and semi-finished plastic packaging across the European Union.**

The freedom of circulation of these goods is crucial to keep hygiene, health and safety in the supply of many products, such as food contact materials, protective equipment and medicines. We cannot afford, in any sense, to forget such basic precautions.

The Plastic industry is also here to play its role and be part of the European coordination. Along this line, EuPC fully supports “*CEFIC recommendations to reduce the impact of COVID19 outbreak on European freight transport*” (attached).

EuPC remains at your disposal and wishes you a great continuation of your and Staff activity.

Yours faithfully,

Alexandre Dangis
EuPC Managing Director

About EuPC:

European Plastics Converters (EuPC) is the leading EU-level trade association, based in Brussels, representing European plastics converting companies. Plastics converters use plastics raw materials and recycled polymers to manufacture new products. EuPC totals about 45 national as well as European plastics converting industry associations and represents more than **50,000 companies**, producing over 50 million tons of plastic products every year. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than **1.6 million people** are working in EU converting companies (mainly **SMEs**) to create a turnover in excess of € 260 billion per year.

