

CLITRAVI

*CENTRE DE LIAISON DES
INDUSTRIES TRANSFORMATRICES DE VIANDES DE L'U.E.
LIAISON CENTRE FOR THE
MEAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE E.U.*

European Commission
Ms. Margrethe Vestager
Commissioner for Competition
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

European Commission
Ms. Cecilia Malmström
Commissioner for Trade
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

European Commission
Ms. Phil Hogan
Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 30 October 2019
GEN/19/13

RE: WTO decision on the Airbus dispute

Dear Commissioner Vestager,
Dear Commissioner Malmström,
Dear Commissioner Hogan,

I write you on behalf of CLITRAVI, the European Association for the Meat Processing Industry which represents about 13,000 companies active in the production of a wide variety of meat products in the European Union. The meat processing industry in Europe is mainly composed of small and medium sized companies employing 350 000 persons with more than 80 billion € sales. The vast majority of these SMEs operate since many generations in rural areas throughout Europe.

Following the WTO arbitrator's decision in the Airbus subsidy dispute on 2 October 2019, the US administration has introduced retaliatory tariffs of 25% on a wide range of EU products, including several EU processed meat products¹.

¹https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/301Investigations/Notice_of_Determination_and_Action_Pursuant_to_Section_301-Large_Civil_Aircraft_Dispute.pdf

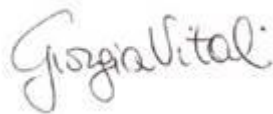
As you may understand this decision is severely impeding access for several European processed meat products to the US market, currently one of our main trading partner.

While the European meat processing industry doesn't want to question the decision of the WTO and fully believe that clear rules on trade are fundamental, I want to express our concerns about the collateral damage for our businesses which are paying the price for a dispute originating in a completely unrelated sector.

CLITRAVI urges the European Commission to engage in a constructive dialogue with the US Authorities to swiftly resolve the ongoing dispute and to avoid further escalation of trade tensions.

Yours sincerely,

Giorgia Vitali

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Giorgia Vitali". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

CLITRAVI President