

To

Mr. Frans Timmermans – Executive Vice-President

Ms. Margrethe Vestager - Executive Vice-President

Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis - Executive Vice-President

Mr. Thierry Breton – Commissioner for Internal Market

Ms. Stella Kyriakides – Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski – Commissioner for Agriculture

Mr. Paolo Gentiloni – Commissioner for Economy

CC

Mr. Kurt Vandenberghe – Member of the President's Cabinet

Mr. Peter Power – Head of Commissioner Hogan's Cabinet

Brussels, 04.03.2020

***CLITRAVI AND EDA CALL THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE
EU SINGLE MARKET AS A VITAL BASIS TO STEP UP SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS***

Dear Vice-Presidents,

Dear Commissioners,

The Single Market is a crucial condition for a good performance of the European economy. A robust Single Market is a key instrument for both the overall health and stability of the European Union, and for the implementation of the Green Deal and the “Farm to Fork Strategy”.

CLITRAVI and EDA regret that the overlapping of a variety of National and EU rules on origin labelling starting from the 1st of April 2020 for meat and milk and the growing number of different and over-simplistic Front-of-Pack (FoP) nutrition labelling schemes are evidences of the lack of maintenance of the Single Market for food and they have triggered its fundamental fragmentation.

On origin labelling both National Governments (by notifying the extension of their Decrees or introducing new ones) and the European Commission (first by accepting those for a 'limited testing period', then by not clearly and firmly opposing any prolongation of these 'testing periods' beyond 1st of April 2020) are creating a barrier to the Single Market and huge legal uncertainty among operators as they do not know which rules to apply.

There is a growing feeling of frustration, just in a time when the European Institutions are asking significant additional efforts to support the EU Green Deal ambitions.

The ambitious objective to transform Europe into the first climate neutral continent by 2050 will require an impressive effort from the food sector and our sectors will need the full support of the European Union to fully play our role.

Today - in this very context –, we regret to be in a position to have to remind the European institutions, including the European Commission as guardian of the treaties, of their task to protect our Internal Market.

In a context of uncertainty it is very, very difficult to fully engage in new obligations.

CLITRAVI and EDA welcome and support the Green Deal including its sustainability challenges but ask the European Commission for a very basic guarantee: protect our Single Market and stop the fragmentation of the internal market and the distortions of competition caused by re-nationalisation of parts of the European food law!

Dirk Dobbelaere



CLITRAVI Secretary General

Alexander Anton



EDA Secretary General

About CLITRAVI

CLITRAVI is 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.

About The EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION

The European Dairy Association is the voice of the dairy processors in the European Union. The membership of EDA consists of associations of dairy processors in EU Member States.