



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commissioner Phil Hogan
Trade

Brussels, 8 May 2020
A (2020) 2600342

Dear Mr Paterson,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April concerning the steel safeguard measures.

As you state in your letter, the EU steel producers have requested the Commission to make certain adjustments to the measures to take into consideration the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When imposing definitive measures in February 2019, the Commission committed to reviewing them on a regular basis to make sure that they are in line with market developments. It is undisputed that the current pandemic constitutes a very relevant development that has a significant impact on the global economy and thereby on the EU steel market. As such, we are considering its effects on the EU steel market as part of our ongoing analysis that will soon result in a proposal for adjustments to the measures.

I can assure you that in designing the adjustments to the safeguard measures, the Commission will strike an appropriate balance between the different interests to ensure that the safeguard measures remain effective under the current circumstances, take into account the legitimate interest of downstream industries, and remain fully compliant with the WTO legal framework.

Lastly, I have mentioned on several occasions that the goal of the ongoing review was to have any adjustments in place by 1 July 2020. I take the opportunity to confirm that our objective regarding the date to conclude the investigation remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Hogan

Mr Brian Paterson
Chairman
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