

Brussels, 15 April 2020

Commissioner Hogan
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Bruxelles

By email to: cab-hogan-contact@ec.europa.eu

RE.: European steel workers call for urgent safeguard measures to protect European jobs

Dear Commissioner Hogan,

We are contacting you on behalf of thousands of European steel workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to urge the European Commission to urgently **strengthen the European steel safeguard measures** to prevent thousands of tonnes of cheap steel being dumped on the open EU market which will lead to **job losses in Europe**.

COVID-19 has had a massive impact on the steel sector and its workers, many of our members have been put on short-time working hours or have been subjected to temporary lay-offs. **Steel production in Europe has reduced by 50%** and there has been a huge cut in new orders (down 70-75%). This has led to the idling of plants and even the shutdown of production. As such, there are real fears that around 50% of steelmaking capacity could be lost.

European trade unions are fighting for workers to protect their rights, their incomes and of course their safety during this global pandemic. We must also look to the future of the European steel sector and how to safeguard these jobs in Europe not only now but also when the pandemic is over.

While Europe has been suffering, other countries continue their production and even stockpile their products. Indeed, China managed to increase their production by **3% in January and February 2020**. There are real concerns that some countries will use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to build up their capacities, increase their stockpiles and flood the open EU market.

Therefore, European steel workers call on EU policy makers to **update the current EU steel safeguard measures** to bring them in line with the huge drop in EU demand. The existing tariff-rate quotas are no longer relevant, and in particular, we call for a **reduction in these quotas by 75%** for Q2 and Q3 in 2020. Should this not happen, we struggle to see how the industry in Europe, and its thousands of workers, will be able to get back on their feet.

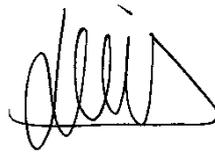
European workers and their families continue to suffer dreadfully during this health crisis, and we need the EU institutions to demonstrate that they are working together, are representing all Member States and are standing up for workers in Europe in times of crisis.

We call on EU policy makers to fully review the current European steel safeguards and take all the necessary steps to promote a level playing field. We must safeguard the European steel industry and its workers now more than ever.

Your sincerely,



Luc Triangle
General Secretary
IndustriAll Europe



Luis Colunga
Deputy General Secretary
IndustriAll Europe