

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 24 April 2020
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Dear President von der Leyen,

LightingEurope, representing Europe's lighting industry (1000 companies, 80% of which are SMEs), applauds and thanks the European Commission and you personally for your quick actions to foster EU-wide collaboration and a European recovery strategy.

We would like to offer our recommendations on the EU's policy and investment priorities over the next 5 years, to help Europe's society and economy recover.

We believe that it is possible to combine economic growth with a green and digital economy – we do not ask you to change your vision for the EU. We ask that the next 5 years of EU policies, rules and investments are grounded in a realistic assessment of Europe's economy and industrial base after this pandemic and that they reinforce the competitiveness of Europe's industry both within the EU and globally.

> Maintain the EU Green Deal commitment to renovation and address part of the stimulus funds to support renovation activities across Europe. The renovation value chain is wide and diverse, investment in this action will create and maintain jobs in innovation, manufacturing, design, servicing etc. in several different sectors (e.g. construction, electrotechnical manufacturing, materials). Accelerated renovation of our schools, our hospitals, our public buildings, our wider infrastructure will improve the quality of people's lives and will contribute to Europe's climate targets, as well as to its economic recovery.

> Direct public investment to support the uptake of new products and technologies. The transition to more energy efficient and sustainable products is best achieved by positive measures that create demand for these products, mandatory product requirements and phaseouts on their own are not sufficient.

> Prioritise rules that foster jobs in the fields of R&D, innovation and manufacturing and postpone or completely review rules that create additional administrative burden. Mandatory information and reporting requirements should be postponed, to allow companies to first invest in activities that will help them improve their financial situation and contribute to the European economy.

> Reduce the amount of laws planned over the next 2-3 years to what is strictly necessary to kick-start the economy:

Member State's resources to enforce EU rules are in no way commensurate to the quantity and complexity of rules that are generated at EU level and this situation is not likely to improve with the arising economic crisis.

Rules that cannot be enforced equally and quickly against all actors, both European and non-European, put Europe's industry at a competitive disadvantage.

Compliance comes at a cost – LightingEurope estimates that some of our members can spend up to 25% of their annual turnover on compliance.

> Consider how to address the impact of buy-outs by foreign investors of companies in Europe that will find themselves in a difficult position, to ensure jobs, innovation capacity and a level investment playing field are maintained in Europe.

We ask you to be brave, to be realistic, to go beyond political rhetoric and to set realistic achievable targets that foster a strong competitive lighting industry base in Europe, creating jobs, growth and value to people. We can achieve this vision for Europe, if we reconsider and reset the priorities, the timetable and the policy mix.

LightingEurope is prepared to contribute – with data on the impact of the crisis, with our technical expertise, with a commitment from our members to continue to invest and generate growth, jobs and value in Europe. Please tell us how we can support you and your team to help Europe recover from this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely,



Lionel Brunet

President, LightingEurope

CC :

Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President – An Economy that Works for People

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Commission

Thierry Breton, Commissioner, Internal Market, European Commission

About LightingEurope

LightingEurope is the voice of the lighting industry, based in Brussels and representing 33 companies and national associations. Together these members account for over 1,000 European companies, a majority of which are small or medium-sized. They represent a total European workforce of over 100,000 people and an annual turnover exceeding 20 billion euro. LightingEurope is committed to promoting efficient lighting that benefits human comfort, safety and well-being, and the environment. LightingEurope advocates a positive business and regulatory environment to foster fair competition and growth for the European lighting industry. More information is available at www.lightingeurope.org.