



To: Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

By email

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Brussels, 30 March 2020

**TRADE BETWEEN EUROPE AND TURKEY AND EAST-WEST CORRIDOR AT RISK
DUE TO DISPROPORTIONATE MEASURES BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES AGAINST
COVID-19 – IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION NEEDED.**

Dear Madam President,

We turn to you and your leadership for your support, as the Turkish authorities are currently not allowing citizens (including professional drivers) from 66 different countries, including most EU countries, to enter Turkey. Drivers of trucks delivering essential goods from and to the EU via Turkey are quarantined for 14 days at the Turkish-EU border (mainly Kapikule border crossing point between Bulgaria and Turkey). This is not acceptable and is severely interrupting trade and supply chains. These disproportionate measures also affect important trade with other partners of the EU. Effectively, the entire Eurasian trade flow is affected due to the key geographical position of Turkey.

The rules impose that:

- Foreign drivers that arrive from countries other than the 66 listed, can enter Turkey “without restriction of quarantine”, but only if not having visited one of the listed 66 countries during 14 days;
- Foreign drivers that are not citizens of the 66 listed countries that have transported to/from those 66 countries in the past 14 days, must wait for 14 days before entering Turkey (waiting period is calculated on the basis of their last visiting date to any country listed);
- Turkish drivers returning to their country have to undergo a fourteen-day quarantine;
- For Turkish vehicles only, procedures are in place at the border to transship goods onto other vehicles or to exchange drivers.


Notably, most of the trade on the Eurasian corridor is via Bulgaria. We understand that Bulgaria has offered its help to tranship all European goods from other EU countries into, from or via Turkey.

This practice would be illogical with respect to social distancing, maintaining of efficient trade and contrary to the recently introduced green lane proposal of the European Union. We therefore ask for your support to call on the Turkish government to stop these measures immediately so as not to interrupt and put supply chains on the Eurasian corridor at complete risk. There is also the risk of a spill over effect of other governments introducing similar measures and in cases where vehicles have been sent back by Turkey.

Without your strong intervention, the timely arrival of critical products, including medical supplies such as antibiotics, or EU goods manufactured in Turkey and neighbouring countries will no longer be possible. This is very much an EU trade issue as there are up to 1 million trucks crossing the Turkish-EU borders every year, one third of which have an EU license plate.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Yours sincerely,



Radu Dinescu
President



Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General