

His Royal Highness
King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
G20 Chairman

Brussels, Vienna, 28/10/2020

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Swift COVID-19 response by G20 leaders

Your Royal Highness,

As the global business community faces the worst economic recession in a hundred years, And in view of the global nature of the pandemic, it will require global solutions to fully tackle the problem. It is with great urgency therefore that the Global Chamber Platform calls upon your leadership at this year's G20 summit. Millions of jobs, and livelihoods depend on world leaders to take decisive and global action before the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic incapacitates the global economy any further.

First and foremost, SMEs must be the focus of the global response. SMEs are crucial job creators across the G20, and the most vulnerable to economic shocks. Essential measures, such as the reskilling of the impacted workforce, as well as the rapid deployment of supportive action, will correspond to the needs of businesses and people alike.

Equally, the G20 has a crucial role to play in reigning in the rise in trade restrictive measures across the globe, and should lead by example to prevent the emergence of new trade restrictive measures, for instance through a temporary crisis moratorium. Furthermore, the global community must push to maintain a progressively more predictable, fair and rules-based trade system. This includes a much-needed structural WTO reform to make it fit for the challenges of the 21st century. At the WTO level, we need to establish global rules on digital trade that are both clear and simple to use, accompanied by ambitious training schemes across the G20 for our workforce to give them the relevant digital skills and avoid skills mismatches for businesses worldwide in post COVID economy.

In our effort to create a progressive and more resilient economy post COVID, the GCP also strongly recommends the integration of sustainability – especially circular economy concepts in the respective G20 recovery packages, such as more effective waste management schemes, resource efficient production and barrier reductions across the G20 to cross-border trade of secondary raw materials. The pandemic provides us with a unique opportunity to truly reshape the global economic model – and it may the best chance to collectively make the business community across the G20 more sustainable and greener.

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The year 2020 has presented us with unprecedented and incredible challenges. Now, more than ever, millions of businesses and jobs depend on the G20's proactive leadership. We call on you to seize this moment to define global policy actions not only for the present, but also for the future.

As Chairman of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP), I can assure you that we are fully committed to continue to assist you in this process.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Leitl
Chairman of the Global Chamber Platform
President of EUROCHAMBRES