

**Directorate-General for Competition**  
**Ms. Astrid Cousin**  
**Head of Unit**  
Unit D4 State Aid – Financial institutions II.  
Place Madou, Madouplein 1  
1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode /Sint-Joost-ten-Noode  
Belgium

**Reference number: HT.4524**  
**Public Consultation regarding availability of short-term export credit insurance**

26 March 2020

Dear Ms Cousin,

On behalf of BusinessEurope, I am contacting you with regards to the Commission's public consultation concerning the [Availability of short-term export credit insurance for exports to all countries in the Annex of the Communication](#). BusinessEurope is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level, standing up for companies across the continent and campaigning on the issues that most influence their performance. A recognised social partner, we speak for all-sized enterprises in 35 European countries, the national business federations of which are our direct members.

The COVID-19 outbreak and the measures taken by countries around the world in reaction to it have caused a considerable disruption of international trade and the supply chains of European companies. The expected contraction of the supply of export credit insurance provided by private insurers will put an additional strain on both intra- and extra-EU trade as many companies will soon be facing severe problems in insuring the financial risks of their export transactions. This prospect raises serious concern amongst our members, and we call upon the Commission to act swiftly to avoid such an outcome.

Therefore, we welcome the consultation launched on 23 March 2020 and encourage the Commission to expand the EU's credit insurance capacity by removing temporarily all countries in the Annex of the Communication without further delay. This would be an important step towards mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on EU exports and the functioning of the Single Market and a fast implementation is paramount to avoid a gap between publicly supported and private credit insurance options.

We remain at your disposal for any questions regarding our views. Yours sincerely,



Luisa Santos  
**Deputy Director General**