



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 25 MARS 2021

Mr Alexander Anton
EDA Secretary General
22 – 28, avenue d'Auderghem
1040 Brussels

Mr Daniel Schnyder
CIAA President
Emmi Roth USA Inc.
100 Dutch Hill Rd # 220
Orangeburg, NY 10962

Dear Mr Anton, dear Mr Schnyder,

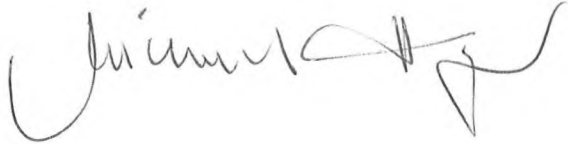
Thank you for your letter of 13 January 2021 to Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis sent on behalf of the Cheese Importers Association of America and the European Dairy Association, in which you express your concerns on the retaliatory tariffs applied to the cheese sector in the context of the World Trade Organization disputes on civil aircraft between the European Union and the United States. Executive Vice-President asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Commission regrets that the US decided to impose tariffs as from October 2019 on cheese and other key EU exports, in the framework of the civil aircraft disputes in which the WTO has found both sides at fault. The Commission is fully aware of the regrettable impacts that tariffs have on exporters and importers alike, as well as along the supply chain. Unfortunately, these impacts are amplified by the negative effects of the Covid-19 health and economic crisis on the food and hospitality sector.

It now appears that we might have a chance to solve the disputes with the new US Administration. On 5 March, the EU and the US agreed to suspend all tariffs imposed in the context of the aircraft disputes for an initial period of four months. Effective as of 11 March, the suspension will provide an important boost to both exporters and importers and help the food and hospitality sector recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, this important step should allow the EU and the US to focus efforts to come to a comprehensive and durable negotiated solution to the civil aircraft disputes.

I highly appreciate your support to the Commission's efforts for bringing these disputes to an end. I would ask you to rest assured that we will continue to spare no effort in engaging with the US on this urgent matter. It remains a priority for us to settle the civil aircraft disputes that we have with the US and thereby achieve that countermeasures are lifted permanently on both sides.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hager', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Hager