

H.E.  
**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission

H.E.  
**Josep Borrell Fontelles**  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Vice-President of the European Commission

H.E.  
**Olivér Várhelyi**  
Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement  
European Commission

H.E.  
**Phil Hogan**  
Commissioner for Trade  
European Commission

9 April 2020

Your Excellences,

First of all, allow me to express my sincere hope that you and your teams are all safe and healthy.

On behalf of the 350,000 companies strong network that we at the Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum represent, I wish to thank you and the team for announced immediate support of up to €38 million for the Western Balkans to tackle the health emergency and reallocation of the €374 million from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance to help the socio-economic recovery of our region. We welcome Commissions close work with International Financial Institutions and relevant financing institutions from the EU Member States as TEAM EUROPE to provide a coordinated response to support the Western Balkans' real economy, including our SMEs and the ailing private sector.

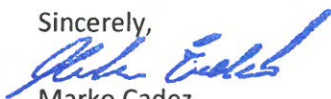
While the spread of coronavirus is questioning the very foundations of our health care systems, our economies in the Western Balkans, likewise the rest of Europe, but also the world is facing unprecedented challenges. Now more than ever, European solidarity is needed. We are proud that Europe is our home.

Western Balkans' business community also welcomes the endorsement of Commission to include EU-Western Balkans border-crossings along the Trans-European Transport Network in its Communication on "Green Lanes" and continuing support for the expansion of the green lanes in the Western Balkans region.

We use this opportunity, that alongside our appreciation for assistance package and solidarity addressed to Western Balkans so far, to kindly encourage European Commission to exempt the Western Balkans from export authorization for PPE.

We are all facing a crisis of unprecedented proportions that I feel we can tackle with unity and solidarity – the firm foundation of the European idea.

Sincerely,



Marko Cadez  
President of the WB6 CIF  
Managing Board