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President of the European Commission

Charles Michel

President of the European Council

David Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Mario Centeno

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Christine Lagarde

President of the European Central Bank

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Dear Presidents,

CEC European Managers is turning towards you as the Voice of one million managers from 17 countries of the EU. We want to express our solidarity and our support for measures that need to be taken on EU-level to cope with the crisis.

Europe is struggling in the grip of the most serious pandemic outbreak of the last 100 years, recording the highest number of casualties so far. Similar episodes have struck the world before: we can see in history how these have shaped economies, marked political and social developments.

This time, the EU is there as a framework of cooperation. Our common institutions have shown their capacity to react and ensure their basic functions. From keeping the single market open to guaranteeing repatriation to EU citizens, from supporting the €uro on the financial global market to providing relief funds, the EU has been able to deliver during the ongoing health emergency.

Very soon this emergency will be followed by other, dramatic consequences.

1. A humanitarian crisis is looming, both at EU borders and far away, which will explode when poverty and underdevelopment meet Covid-19. Some others are already showing, like the democratic degradation that is spreading to countries where the basic principles of the rule of law are being suspended by authoritarian emergency laws.
2. The socio-economic crisis is already touching deeply our countries, leaving scars that risk being far more painful and longer lasting than the (tragic) health consequences. Hundreds of thousands of companies have been forced to interrupt their activities, laying off workers

and preparing for a spiraling economic contraction that will leave no sector untouched. And even if SMEs are particularly concerned at this very stage, it will only be a matter of time before also larger companies follow. In defining the common reaction to the economic crisis, we expect European institutions to act boldly, inspired by two simple assumptions: that no European country, however sound its public finances and solid its productive system can be, can consider itself immune to the shocks that will come and that financial solidarity among countries being part of a common market is an economic necessity before than a matter of moral duty.

We are confident that you will identify effective, proportionate and timely measures and we count on the swift support of Member States to allow for their implementation. They must identify a future recovery trajectory centered around sustainability, accelerating the transition towards new business models generating lower socio-ecological strain. In this process, **social partners are essential**: by representing the actors of the economic recovery, they are in the best position to know what is working and what is not. The managerial workforce can bring further insight, thanks to the bridge-building function managers play between the two sides of the industry and their capacity to speak to both.

When the moment of reconstruction comes, good and strong leadership, based on the capacity to look beyond, anticipate future scenarios and imagine policy responses accordingly will be crucial. The people we represent, managers and professionals working in all sectors and at all hierarchical levels, are daily confronted with this task in their professional life, taking the right decisions – and even more so in times of crisis – to ensure that companies can thrive in the respect of common needs and future generations.

In these special times ahead, the values of competence, responsibility, foresight and perspective-thinking – values that identify managers – will be highly needed. Exceptional circumstances like these require measures never seen before and an unprecedented cooperation between policy makers and all societal stakeholders. Be assured that European managers will be there, ready to play their role in this historical challenge.

Many thanks for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Ludger Ramme
President