



Federation of German Industries · 11053 Berlin, Germany

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Dr. Joachim Lang
Director General and Member of
the Presidential Board

Date
9 April 2020

Page
1 of 2

Dear Marcella,

The corona pandemic is currently posing a major challenge to the European society. Over the past weeks, we have closely followed the developments in Italy. It is to our great relief that the latest numbers on the spread of the virus allow for some hope in the current crisis.

In addition to the public health consequences, the corona pandemic is also severely affecting the economic performance of countries across Europe. In Germany, many companies have been temporarily closed down. Employees have lost their jobs and supply chains have broken down both nationally and internationally. The developments of the past weeks present our economies with far-reaching challenges.

While Germany has not yet reached the peak of the corona pandemic, the declining infection figures from Italy provide us with some hope in these difficult times. The fact that the Italian industry is slowly starting to plan the increase of production levels is considered a positive development by many German stakeholders.

Germany is also taking the developments in Italy as an opportunity to look ahead. We expect our political decision makers to allow our companies to at least partially return to business after Easter. Currently, we as an association are intensively discussing how such a phased return can be best designed and managed.

Returning to normal production levels is naturally not only a question for German companies. Across all European countries, economies will have to be restarted while at the same time adhering to safeguarding procedures to protect the employees from further infections.

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We expect that national productions will not be able to return to normal levels straight away. In order to consider all dimensions of the value chains, production has therefore to be restarted on equal levels across the production process. With such an approach, we can guarantee the supply of the population, prevent economic damage caused by uneven start of operations and ensure that health protection measures can be put in place.

As the Italian and the German industries are closely interlinked, we mutually depend on the suppliers and partners from each other's country. Ultimately, a robust and prosperous European value chain can only be achieved by cooperation and trade across borders. In order to achieve this goal, we suggest to resume the Italian production in a coordinated way over the coming weeks, paying attention to all parts of the value chain.

We hope that Italy's industry can return to production as best as possible under the given circumstances. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything that the Federation of German Industries can do to support the recovery process of the Italian industry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Schi'.