



The Secretary General

Mr. Mandelson
Member of the European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
B - 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 4 February 2008

Orgalime position paper: Engineering Industries demand an EU Trade Policy which focuses on competitiveness, growth and jobs

Dear Commissioner,

As you know, Orgalime, the European Engineering Industries Association, speaks for 35 trade federations representing some 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking industries of 24 European countries. The industry employs some 10.6 million people in the EU and in 2006 accounted for some €1,779 billion of annual output, which is not only more than one quarter of the output of manufactured products but also a third of the manufactured exports of the European Union.

We would like to assure you that you have our full support in advocating a proactive EU Trade policy agenda that rejects protectionism at home and leads to the opening up of markets abroad. We see with some concern that, both inside the EU and in third countries, protectionist tendencies seem to be gaining ground: we could name, as examples, the stronger call for using trade defence instruments as political measures or the practice of a number of third countries to develop local standards at the expense of international standards.

Notwithstanding your decision not to pursue the reform of Trade Defence Instruments, we urge you to continue pursuing an open trade policy which focuses on free and fair international trade and not to give in to the short term temptation of using trade defence instruments in a counterproductive manner at the expense of consumer and downstream sectors such as ours which are central to the EU manufacturing economy.

We hope you will duly take into account our position. A copy of the present letter has been sent to your colleague Commissioner Verheugen.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Harris

Cc DG Trade: Messrs O'Sullivan, Falkenberg, Balas, Ms Ratso, Messrs Garcia Bercero, Petriccione, Amilhat, Wenig, Ms Jakob, Ms Konig, Messrs Redonnet, Klein, Schaps, Schlegelmilch, Ms Tuininga, Ms Valentini-Wanka, Messrs Perez Canado, Perreau de Pinninck, Lopian.

The European Engineering Industries Association