

Brussels, 26 January 2024

Ms Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels

**Subject: Implementation of Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) to Ukrainian products**

Dear President,

We would like to voice the concerns of several EU agriculture sectors that are being severely affected by unlimited imports from Ukraine, following the implementation of Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs).

First and foremost, we want to underscore our unwavering support for the Ukrainian people and our commitment to backing any initiatives aimed at assisting them in dealing with the aftermath of the conflict stemming from Russian aggression. This is non-negotiable.

However, we think proper reflection should be given to certain sectors, which seem to shoulder an additional burden of this support and contend with an unprecedented influx of imports from Ukraine. Specifically, farmers and producers in the poultry sugar and eggs sectors are grappling with significant surges in imports from Ukraine, posing – if continued - a threat to the stability of these sectors and jeopardizing the future of their producers.

The redirection of volumes, originally intended mainly for third countries, predominantly to the EU, is causing substantial disruptions to these markets. Additionally, differences in production standards and the absence of a level playing field are giving rise to unfair competition.

Hence, we wish to emphasize that a simple continuation of the current ATMs is untenable and some adaptations and safeguards need to be injected. We insist on the Commission proposing solutions to safeguard these affected sectors while ensuring an adequate level of support for Ukraine.

Considering options such as registering imports with a deposit system and establishing thresholds beyond which exports should be directed towards third countries could be a viable path forward and should be taken into account by the Commission. It is also crucial for Ukraine's future recovery to maintain some access to export markets in third countries and prevent it from becoming overly reliant on EU

exports. Moreover, these markets in third countries could be occupied by Russia, which would lead to further economic and political tension.

In a broader sense, we urge the Commission to implement the necessary tools to shield our producers from the adverse consequences of unrestricted imports while upholding the essential level of support for Ukrainian citizens.

We are prepared to engage in discussions about potential solutions and offer our assistance in navigating the way forward.

Yours sincerely,



Manfred Weber



Siegfried Mureşan



Herbert Dorfmann



Norbert Lins