



ESTONIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY

KESKUS-  
KAUPPAMARI



The Latvian Chamber  
of Commerce and  
Industry



LIETUVOS PREKYBOS,  
PRAMONĖS IR AMATŲ RŪMŲ  
ASOCIACIJA

Mr Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia  
Mrs Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland  
Mr Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia  
Mr Saulius Skvernelis, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Dear Excellencies,

We are writing on behalf of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce, Finland Chamber of Commerce, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Association of Lithuanian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Crafts, hereinafter referred to as the Chambers.

The Chambers appreciate all the efforts taken by our governments in the fight with the ongoing health and financial crisis. In this crisis, our nations have worked together, however our co-operation has been hampered but that to a limited extent that does not take full benefit of our regional position, intervened economies, cultural similarities, workforce movement, and other key aspects that may help us weather the current crisis and keep economies afloat.

The Chambers would like to draw your attention to main areas where Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland could further co-operate to help our economies and entrepreneurs in the current situation.

1. We need to keep our economies open by minimizing the risks associated with COVID-19. The consequences of a complete shutdown of our economies and society are harsh and should be avoided when possible and without duly justified reasons. Public and workers health are the number one concern of any organization. By taking appropriate precautions and cooperation of businesses, relevant agencies, the social risks can be minimized effectively.
2. The Chambers see an urgent need for constant and timely coordination between relevant authorities and governments to ensure a common regional approach to travel and coordination of other restrictions for high-risk countries or regions. Also, similar risk assessment measures are needed to further simplify communication and decision making for all parties. A common stance would simplify business making decisions and further minimize risks related to COVID-19 spread. When possible, all new restrictions that need to be enforced should be shared in advance in a timely manner, but not less than 2 weeks before.
3. The Chambers emphasize the importance of allowing free or with minimal interference cross-border movement of the workforce, different professionals, and experts between countries. In addition, The Chambers highlight the importance of tourism for all our countries. We believe that safety and riskless travelling can be ensured in close public-private co-operation and under special travelling arrangements whenever needed.
4. The Chambers highlight that common safeguards, testing systems, risk assessments, and rules are of paramount importance for our region's economies and societies to stay together throughout the crisis. For



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example, common "traffic light system" would create consistent procedures and ease the cross-borders interactions.

5. To minimize the economic and social impact, we need to work together to avoid any unnecessary quarantines and other measures not only between our 4 nations but from other EU-member states as well if possible. For example, similar testing practices could be done only once entering the region to avoid unnecessary costs and time spent. This would not only increase the ease of doing business, but it would make a compelling argument for tourists and other regular passenger traffic to visit our region and countries.

The Chambers have strong confidence that our countries can work together, and that cooperation will not only benefit our economies but our societies as a whole and lower the risks associated with COVID-19

Yours Sincerely,

Toomas Luman  
President  
The Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Juho Romakkaniemi  
President  
Finland Chamber of Commerce

Aigars Rostovskis  
President  
The Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Rimas Varkulevicius  
President  
The Association of Lithuanian Chambers of  
Commerce, Industry and Crafts