



To Damien Bruckard and Tom Voegelé, ICC

As a follow up to the call (30th of March) on customs-related aspects of the COVID-19 crisis we have had a briefing with 10 of Sweden's most important exporting companies discussing the major trade and customs issues companies are facing now. I would like to share with you some of the challenges that were highlighted.

Participants: ABB AB, ABB Power grids, BillerudKorsnäs, Epiroc, Seco tools, Systemair, Volvo CE, Kopparberg brewery and Suzuki Garphyttan

The message is clear - keep trade flowing to restore growth and safeguard jobs. If the continuation of economic activity is undermined, the capacity to combat the crisis will also be jeopardised. Coordinated effort is required.

Challenges

Borders must be open for freight. Closed borders and countries that implement temporary emergency measures without regard to regulations create disruptions in the value chain.

- Make sure that governments respect regulations. For example the "green lanes", the EU Commission's guidelines on border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. Deviations create massive traffic disruption in Europe.
- A shortage of drivers is also becoming an issue, as many are no longer able or willing to drive abroad. Quarantine automatically imposed on drivers returning from international travel is grounding a significant number of them. Quarantine also affects local transport markets when drivers commute to work from neighbouring countries.
- Businesses must know what type of documentation is required for border-crossings and their frontier workers, how this documentation can be acquired without the imposition of countless approvals.
- Increased cost for freight is reported, due to lack of transporters and containers.
- Cancelled flights means reduces possibilities to express deliveries of goods (like spare parts).

Sweden is highly dependent on export. As one of Sweden's Chambers of Commerce we hope that ICC, as the world business organization can help facilitate the international trade and be a strong voice during the Covid-19 crisis.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information about the challenges facing our business community.

Best Regards,

Jenny Emerén, CEO, the Chamber of Commerce Mälardalen – in the heart of Sweden

jenny@handelskammarenmalardalen.se, +46 (0)70-745 02 66