Paris, 20th March 2020



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global spread of Covid-19 is a new situation for our country. We face a double challenge, both health and economic. France has the necessary assets to overcome this crisis: it has high-quality infrastructures, relies on a highly professional public authority, and can count on its driving forces. You are these driving forces.

From the very beginning of the crisis, as soon as the first signs of concern seized our fellow citizens, you responded. Securing the manufacturing and supply process in the health, hygiene and agri-food sectors and the provision of our vital services (water, energy and sanitation) is a crucial and indispensable issue for the life of the nation. Health and food are the two main concerns of our fellow citizens. Feeding and caring for ourselves is fundamental, and when everything seems to go wrong, everyone measures it at its true value.

You, employees in the "Chemicals and Materials" industries, are an essential link in this supply chain. You supply active ingredients and equipment for health, essential solutions to ensure food safety (inputs, biocides, packaging, refrigerants), hygiene products (personal, domestic or professional, hand sanitizer, papers), but also molecules necessary for water treatment, energy supply, or the protection of goods and equipment. The French are more aware of this today than ever before.

We are counting on you and we would like to send you this message of encouragement and recognition from the Government of France. Through your know-how and sense of responsibility, we are able to assure the French people that they will be able to feed themselves healthily and without deprivation, and be supplied with vital health and hygiene products and services. This is essential and we owe it to you. The State will be at your side through this difficult period.

Yours sincerely,

Bruno le Maire,

Minister of Economy and Finance