



Luxembourg, 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2018

European Commission

Ms. Margrethe VESTAGER  
Commissioner for Competition

**Subject matter:** ArcelorMittal's proposed acquisition of ILVA

Dear Commissioner,

We would first of all like to thank you for your rapid reaction concerning our letter on the proposed take-over of ILVA by ArcelorMittal.

We understand that the Commission, and in particular your services, are taking very seriously the fears expressed by many stakeholders concerning the potential threats which a large number of production sites affected by this case are facing. The divestment procedures which ArcelorMittal is obliged to engage throughout the European Union are bound to lead these production sites towards an uncertain period of challenges and painful restructuring.

In this context, we are satisfied and reassured by your statement that the Commission will only approve those divestments that do not jeopardise the future of the plants concerned or, in other words, that potential new owners commit to operate them on a viable and long-term basis. This statement is of utmost importance to all concerned parties - the unions, workers, as well as the various levels of government - and it provides a good basis for us to work together in order to find sustainable solutions. Therefore we are counting on you to scrutinise very carefully the capacities and intentions of potential buyers.

Notwithstanding the particular case of ArcelorMittal and Ilva, we believe that we are facing a more general issue that relates to the foundations and overall goals of a sustainable industrial policy. In our view, there is a need to launch a debate between the EU Member States, the Commission and all relevant stakeholders on the future EU industrial strategy, also against the background of take-overs and divestments in the framework of merger & acquisition procedures. Such a debate could be kicked-off in one of the upcoming meetings of the Competitiveness Council.



In order to strengthen EU industry, we need to make sure that our policies are consistent and complementary, and that they all work towards encouraging long-term investments and job creation in the EU.

Yours sincerely,

The Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of the Economy



Étienne Schneider

The Mayor of the City of Dudelange,



Dan Biancalana

Copy: Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President European Commission  
Mr Claude Wiseler, Président Groupe parlementaire CSV