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Destinataire: <Johannes.HAHN@ec.europa.eu>

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Objet: Situation of freelance interpreters

Dear Johannes,

I would like to bring to your attention the situation of about 1000 freelance interpreters working for the European Commission and other EU institutions.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, their workload has been reduced considerably. As the freelance interpreters work almost exclusively for the EU and pay their taxes in the EU budget, they do not benefit from any national safety nets or measures, such as short-term work schemes. The freelance interpreters are therefore left almost without income and rights for social allowances in this unprecedented time.

From the very start of the crisis, the European Commission has taken bold measures to make sure that people can preserve their jobs and at least part of their incomes. We have also worked hard to provide liquidity support to European companies, so that they can keep people in jobs, at least part-time, and survive the lock-down. It is my strong conviction that the European Commission and the European institutions at large should do their utmost to protect their workers, even if they are freelancers.

I would be much obliged if you could look into this question, even if you have so much on your plate with the revised MFF proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Valdis Dombrovskis