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European Commission supports UEPC concerns over the US tariffs on steel and aluminium

17 October 2018

BRUSSELS, 17 October 2018 – Cecilia Malmström, the European Commissioner for Trade, has today told leading EU construction industry boss Marc Pigeon, President of the European Union of House Builders and Developers (UEPC), that the EU strongly backs UEPC's call to stop the trade dispute between the United States and EU getting out of control in order to prevent long-term damage to the European Union's construction sector.

EU Commissioner Malmström told Pigeon: "I fully agree with you that collaboration between the United States and the European Union is essential for the stability of trade flows and the multilateral trading system ... it is clear that an escalation of trade tensions ... would have a significant impact on the global trading system and the world economy."

Marc Pigeon said: "UEPC applauds Commissioner Malmström for stressing the role that EU developers and house builders have to play in supporting the European economy and resolving the affordability crisis in the EU housing market. UEPC and its members will continue to lead the way in finding innovative solutions to support prospective homeowners, through working closely with the EU Institutions".

The EU construction sector relies on, and greatly benefits from, free and fair trade. The sector, which is still recovering from the 2008 financial crisis, would be exposed to significant additional costs caused by rising housebuilding supply chain costs in the event of a full-scale EU-US trade war. This would negatively impact on levels of affordability and leave many EU citizens currently looking for a home unable to afford one.

- Ends -



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Notes to Editors

UEPC has urged the European Commission in the strongest possible terms to seek to continue to work collaboratively and consensually with the US Administration in order to minimise the risks of serious, adverse effects of the current trade dispute impacting on the EU housebuilding sector; and to focus instead on achieving a sensible and sustainable solution that does not imperil growth, jobs and innovation.

About the European Union of House Builders and Developers (UEPC)

UEPC is the umbrella organisation for European Union Member State's national federations of Developers and House Builders, representing more than 30,000 developers and house builders affiliated to the federations of 10 EEA States.

UEPC's main objective is to ensure affordable housing for all European citizens. UEPC works with its members to promote practical and commercially deliverable policy approaches to achieving a sustainable built environment, including issues of resource efficiency.

Its members include:

- Belgium: Union Professionnelle du Secteur Immobilier - Beroepsvereniging van de Vastgoedsector (UPSI-BVS);
- France: Fédération Promoteurs Immobiliers (FPI);
- Germany: Bundesverband Freier Immobilien- und Wohnungsunternehmen (BFW);
- Ireland: Irish Home Builders Association (IHBA);
- Malta: Malta Developers Association (MDA);
- Norway: Boligprodusentenes Forening (NHBA);
- Poland: PolskiZwiazek Firm Deweloperskich (PZFD);
- Romania: PatronatulSocietatilor din Constructii (PSC);
- Spain: Developer and House Builders Association of Zaragoza (ACPZ);
- United Kingdom: Home Builders Federation (HBF), National House Building Council (NHBC).

About Marc Pigeon

Marc Pigeon is the CEO of ROXIM, developer based in Montpellier. He was twice the President of the Fédération des Promoteurs Immobiliers (FPI).

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