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Subject: The COVID-19 Pandemic

İstanbul, 26/03/2020

Dear Apparel and Textile Industry Partner,

The COVID-19 pandemic, started in Wuhan province of China in 2019, affects billions of people's lives globally in different ways. Our hearts are with those who have been affected personally by the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) as well as almost all nations around the world that are facing extreme measures in the attempt to slow its spread. Alongside its social and medical impacts, it has also a growing impact over global economy.

Due to the precautions applied by the governments to prevent severe results of the COVID-19, such as large-scale quarantines, travel restrictions, and social-distancing, the level of trading and consumption of fashion and apparel goods is globally practicing a very strong decline.

As the global economy is passing through difficult times, the apparel sector needs to take very essential steps against the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, to ensure the continuity of the global apparel supply chain, it is crucial to sustain the collaboration and communication to lessen the negative effects of the pandemic. We believe that, under these extraordinary conditions, from suppliers to buyers all parts of the apparel supply chain should do the best to find or create a new common platform. It would only be possible to prevent negative impacts of this pandemic over our sector, if we act together as all parts of the apparel supply chain.

As the sixth biggest apparel supplier of the world, Turkish apparel sector, has been honored by the trust you place in us to supply your businesses and is ready to take every necessary step and carry its responsibility for its partners by holding the current orders until the markets turn back to normal course. However, we also expect similar understanding from our trading partners.

Turkish textile and apparel industry is one of the leading industries in Turkish economy with an employment 2 million of workers in 40.000 companies. The cancelation of orders and suspension of payments by our trading partners will cause dramatic results and a lot of companies may be out of work. Consequently, this will be resulted in social turbulence because of that huge number of workers will be out of employment due to non-payment of their wages.

The General Secretariat of
Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Associations

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Under these circumstances, we kindly request from our business partners to take under normal payment terms for under production and finished products, that have been ordered. Also, produced products in the producer's storages must be considered as shipped since these products are out of factories. Concerning the payments, we think that we can create flexible payment methods and mutually find some possibilities in order to maintain the global apparel supply chain. Briefly, we expect our partners to support their vendors until the end of this Corona Turmoil.

As Turkish Apparel Sector, despite to the current uncertainty, we give our word to still be one of the best worldwide partners of this global industry with our usual and continuously improving sustainable business conditions.

You can contact us through our e-mail address konfeksiyonarge@itkib.org.tr for all kind of opinions and requests of you. While earnestly thanking for our long and traditional partnership and cooperation, we, above everything else, as Turkish Apparel Industry wish to our good friends, our loyal business partners, our valuable customers and clients goodness and well-being together with all beloved ones.

Please stay healthy and safe!

Yours sincerely,


Mustafa GULTEPE
Istanbul Apparel Exporters Association (IHKIB)
Chairman

The General Secretariat of
Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Associations

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