



## STATEMENT

**Systemic relevance of packaging and security of supply of the “critical sectors”, among others nutrition, hygiene and health**

**Exclusion of packaging operations from ‘Lock-down’ orders**

[20<sup>th</sup> March 2020] – The European Association of Steel Drum Manufacturers (SEFA) Chairman Berend Golterman issued the following statement encouraging the European Commission and Member States to recognize **industrial packaging products manufacturing facilities as “essential”** when drafting orders for Lock-down, border closures or otherwise:

“SEFA recognizes the daunting challenges our European Governments, health organizations and others are facing in making decisions aimed at protecting communities across the European territory. This is particularly true when authorities find it necessary to enforce ‘Lock-down’ or similar quarantine orders.

SEFA members produce essential packaging among others **for oil, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, food and other consumer products**. Our members supply packaging to agricultural producers, food processors, hygiene product manufacturers, grocers and other retailers. Disruptions in the availability of these goods would cause significant hardships to consumers across the country who depend on steady and stable supplies.

To provide greater certainty and clarity for our industry’s businesses and employees, we ask for clear exclusion of our manufacturing operations from possible ‘Lock-down’ orders and restrictive transport measures or border closures, as the packaging products industry plays an essential role in avoiding unnecessary disruptions of goods and services.”