The statement reads: “EU Statement at the General Council of 2 March 2021 on the “Call to Prevent Export Restrictions on Covid-19 Vaccines” – 02 March 2021

Statement delivered by Ambassador João Aguiar Machado

The European Union understands that the call to prevent export restrictions on Covid-19 vaccines (MSC.M/C216/3, 13 February 2021) is a necessary call for action as the global demand for vaccines greatly exceeds available production capacity.

The EU will work closely with other WTO Members and other countries by increasing transparency, working to ensure availability and accessibility of Covid-19 vaccines, and prevent the export restrictions on Covid-19 vaccines that are inconsistent with WTO rules. The EU, working together with other WTO Members, and under the leadership of the Director-General Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, will support the efforts of all WTO Members in the struggle against the spread of the virus and its variants throughout the world. The EU is committed to the fight against the global pandemic and will continue to support the efforts of all states in the WTO Members, and to work closely with the WTO Members to prevent the export restrictions on Covid-19 vaccines that are inconsistent with WTO rules.

The EU understands the importance of public interest in the production of vaccines and will continue to support efforts to increase the number of Covid-19 vaccines available to the world population. The EU is committed to the fight against the global pandemic and will continue to support the efforts of all states in the WTO Members, and to work closely with the WTO Members to prevent the export restrictions on Covid-19 vaccines that are inconsistent with WTO rules.

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