

*Dear Chairman of European Family Businesses, Mr Alfonso Líbano Daurella,*

*Dear participants,*

*Regrettably, unforeseen circumstances do not allow me to attend to the fifth European Family Business Summit as it was my desire.*

*Nonetheless, I didn't want to miss the opportunity offered to me to wish you all the best in this summit.*

*You are a perfect example of what the EU is about, prosperity and opportunities for our citizens. In the EU, there are more than 14 million Family Businesses, accounting for more than 60 million jobs in the private sector and around 50% of European GDP. From this data, it is clear that you are at the core of European economy. You are a crucial actor in the development of local and regional economies and natural incubators of an entrepreneurial culture.*

*You are important for the European Parliament. We support Family Businesses and the resilient industrial policy for the EU can and must foster so that our industry prospers, as highlighted in its resolution on Family Businesses adopted on June 2015. You are a cornerstone of responsible ownership and entrepreneurship in Europe.*

*Your voice is important. We need to work together to create a business friendly environment. The European institutions and the business community need to work together in facing the many challenges ahead of us. All our policies, from trade to competition, from research to energy, from digital to education, need to work coherently. This is one of the fundamental challenges we face in the EU. Both internally and globally. For this, we need to continue our efforts on the path to a better regulation, to simplify our legislation, to complete the single market for goods and services, and to ensure that it works appropriately so that European industry can create the opportunities and jobs our citizens need and deserve. As a concrete example, we are now working on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, your Summit should be an important contribution to help design a new industrial policy that will make our economy leader in the global markets of tomorrow.*

*You have a responsibility. Your role in our society it is not merely economic. Family businesses are leaders in transmission of values, of social responsibility between generations. This is important for the European Union. Not only when you address your needs to the EU institutions, but also to transmit to our citizens the benefits the EU represents for our societies, in the mist of growing global competition and uncertainty. The EU is a lighthouse of stability and progress, that we all must treasure and project forward so that future generations enjoy, at least, the same degree of prosperity and wellbeing we have experienced.*

*Once again, I wish you all the success for this fifth European Family Business Summit.*

*Antonio Tajani*