

**Dear Colleague,**

As of the first case reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019 for the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) our world has been experiencing an ongoing uncertainty. Consequently, on 24 January 2020, the Government of Israel started taking measurements in order to avoid and prevent the outbreak of coronavirus in Israel as those efforts are essential for keeping the safety and health of the citizens of Israel.

This situation naturally affects economic activity all around the world to some degree. However, the Israeli economy has demonstrated exceptional strength to withstand the challenges posed in recent years and Israel's thriving industries continue to stand firm in the face of adverse challenges.

In light of these recent developments in Israel, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you regarding the status of Israeli business and economic activity. Israel's robust economy is continuing to operate normally. Financial activity continues unabated, with all regulatory and financial institutions proceeding with business as usual.

The private sector, including businesses and factories exposed to infected or quarantined employees, continues to operate in their normal manner even given the current conditions.

Israeli government authorities have taken all the necessary measures in order to assure the constant flow of merchandise in and out of the country and to ensure the continued functioning of the business sectors. The logistics and transportation infrastructure (flights and sea ports) are, for the most part, fully operational. Local and foreign shipping companies continue their regular shipping schedules.

Underpinned by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, effective regulatory bodies, and a high degree of innovation and creativity, the Israeli economy has learned to endure and even thrive in times of crisis.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Israeli commercial attaché in your region.

On behalf of the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI), I would like to thank you for your support and understanding during this period, and I look forward to continuing and expanding our cooperation in the months and years to come