



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen  
The President

Brussels, 25. 05. 2020  
Ares (2020) 1972174

Dear Presidents,

*I would like to thank you for your letter of 7 April 2020 regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to have a dramatic impact on our societies and economies. I wholeheartedly welcome your support for seeking European solutions where they can complement and boost national measures to overcome this crisis.*

*Rest assured that the European Commission is working on all fronts to contain the spread of the coronavirus, support national health systems, protect and save lives, and counter the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic with historically unprecedented measures being taken at both national and EU level. A comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the EU's actions can be found on our dedicated coronavirus response website: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en)*

*However, the overall effectiveness of our response will depend to a large extent on how well we coordinate our actions. Every country has been affected by the virus in different ways. While it might therefore appear appropriate to seek tailor-made remedies for individual Member States, we must remember that the virus knows no borders. It can only be defeated through effective European and international cooperation and coordination.*

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*Mr Gerard Larcher, President of the French Senate*  
*Mr Constantin An. Tassoulas, President of the Hellenic Parliament*  
*Ms Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, President of the Italian Senate*  
*Mr Roberto Fico, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies*  
*Mr Fernand Etgen, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg*  
*Mr Eduardo Luís Barreto Ferro Rodrigues, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal*  
*Mr Igor Zorčič, President of the National Assembly of Slovenia*  
*Mr Alojz Kovšca, President of the National Council of Slovenia*  
*Ms Meritxell Batet Lamaña, President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain*  
*Ms María Pilar Llop Cuenca, President of the Senate of Spain*

Assembleia da República  
Gabinete do Presidente

N.º de Entrada: 656228  
Classificação: 08.02  
Data: 25.05.2020

*A successful recovery from the health crisis and the effectiveness of our economic response are closely interlinked. This is reflected in the joint European roadmap, presented on 15 April 2020, for a gradual, consolidated, coordinated and continuously monitored exit from the current containment measures.*

*A phased approach for the opening of our internal and external borders is needed, leading to the restoration of the normal functioning of the Schengen area.*

*The recommendations contained in the roadmap are complemented by several initiatives from the European Commission to allow increased flexibility in spending programmes and fiscal rules and to make significant funds available to support health systems, businesses, and livelihoods. I very much welcome the strong measures agreed by the Eurogroup on 16 April 2020, including the endorsement of the Commission's proposals on Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) to keep people in jobs, as well as the flexible use of cohesion funds.*

*The European Union budget and the next multiannual financial framework will have an important role to play in the European recovery. I believe we will urgently need a European 'Marshall plan' to trigger the massive public and private sustainable investments that will be needed to jumpstart our economies and rebuild the single market after the coronavirus crisis. The upcoming revised MFF will be key for this. Respect and solidarity between Member States remain essential: a key factor in a successful response to this crisis is to build on each other's strengths. And from a more long-term perspective, we should seek to draw lessons from the present crisis and consider how we can make our European Union more resilient, sustainable and fair. I am convinced that the Conference on the Future of Europe, which I proposed last July in my political guidelines, is more important than ever. My resolve to give Europeans a greater say in building the future of our Union is untarnished by the crisis.*

*Finally, I would like to underline the important role that I see for national Parliaments in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath in a true European spirit. Together with the European Parliament, national Parliaments directly represent European citizens. Their input is therefore essential for properly calibrating the European-level response to the crisis, and I would like to invite national Parliaments to use our established political dialogue to contribute to this difficult task in a timely manner. As Vice-President Šefčovič wrote in his letter of 8 April 2020 to the national Parliaments, the Commission is also making all possible efforts to facilitate national Parliaments' subsidiarity control of its legislative proposals under the present exceptional circumstances where respecting the eight-week deadline set by the Treaties may be difficult. The Commission is also alerting national Parliaments when it adopts proposals aimed at mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, whose adoption might need to take place in line with the urgency procedure stipulated in Article 4 of Protocol No 1.*

*National Parliaments play a decisive role in helping ensure that national counter-measures are enhanced by the benefits of European cooperation and solidarity, so that we come out stronger from this crisis.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Ursula von der Leyen*