



Brussels, 30 March 2020

Dear President von der Leyen,  
Dear President Sassoli,  
Dear President Michel,

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we face an unprecedented crisis here in Brussels and across the EU, with deep and far-reaching economic, social, and political consequences. Member States are endeavouring to combat the COVID-19 pandemic by all means available to save lives and bring the situation under control.

The EU must do its utmost to help its citizens. Although the Commission was slow at the outset to respond to the crisis, there have been clear indications over the last two weeks that Europe is ready to devote its full coordination capacity to assist Member States by:

- Ensuring necessary protective equipment and medical supplies to Member State healthcare systems, while preserving the integrity of the Single Market;
- Supporting EU citizens through the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the European Solidarity Fund, so that jobs are not affected disproportionately;
- Maintaining the liquidity of our financial sector and supporting firms so they can continue to support our economy; and
- Allowing Member States to take effective, resolute action through the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules.

The EU must lose no time building on these initiatives, using all existing instruments to support Member States as they tackle this historic and growing emergency, and prepare a robust plan of action for when the crisis has passed.

It is already clear that significant EU assistance will be needed to relaunch national economies. The EU must allow Member States to take all necessary monetary and fiscal measures to support businesses, including by reducing regulatory pressures—for example, creating instruments to ease compliance where normal mechanisms would prove burdensome.

Above all, the Commission should radically scale back its pre-crisis regulatory ambition and re-examine its political priorities. Now is the time to put pragmatism first—and to postpone new legislation under initiatives such as the European Green Deal. Instead, its priority should be the

rebalancing and reprioritising of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027, with increased flexibility on expenditure, to make it one of the tools of economic recovery available to Member States.

There is no single issue of greater urgency to the citizens of Europe than the COVID-19 crisis. The EU must not squander this opportunity to demonstrate its genuine added value in responding to this outbreak, or it will be doomed to failure.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alexandr Vondra MEP  
Ms Anna Zalewska MEP  
Ms Dorien Rookmaker MEP  
Ms Izabela-Helena Kloc MEP  
Mr Andrey Slabakov MEP  
Mr Pietro Fiocchi MEP  
Ms Jadwiga Wisniewska MEP  
Ms Romana Tomc MEP  
Mr Milan Zver MEP  
Mr Ioannis Lagos MEP  
Mr Ryszard Antoni Legutko MEP  
Mr Raffaele Fitto MEP  
Mr Carlo Fidanza MEP  
Mr Evzen Tosenovsky MEP  
Ms Veronika Vrecionova MEP  
Mr Zdzislaw Krasnodebski MEP  
Mr Derk Jan Eppink MEP  
Mr Witold Jan Waszczykowski MEP  
Mr Emmanouil Fragkos MEP  
Mr Jacek Saryusz-Wolski MEP  
Mr Gilles Lebreton MEP  
Mr Raffaele Stancanelli MEP  
Mr Sergio Berlato MEP  
Mr Nicola Procacchini MEP  
Mr Maximilian Krah MEP  
Ms Ruza Tomasic MEP  
Mr Cristian Terhes MEP  
Ms Margarita de la Pisa Carrion MEP  
Mr Peter Lundgren MEP  
Mr Hermann Tertsch MEP  
Mr Krzysztof Jurgiel MEP  
Mr Grzegorz Tobiszowski MEP  
Mr Jan Zahradil MEP  
Ms Andzelika Anna Mozdzanowska MEP  
Ms Elzbieta Kruk MEP  
Mr Valdemar Tomasevski MEP  
Ms Beata Kempa MEP