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Brussels, 13/08/2020

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Following my letter of 16 June, I am glad to inform you that all Member States have now confirmed their support to the European Commission for its efforts to move forward with European collaboration on vaccine procurement to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is my pleasure to hereby confirm that all Member States have exhausted the required national procedures for concluding the Agreement on procuring COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the Member States and related procedures. I recall that the Commission approved the Agreement pursuant to Commission Decision C(2020) 4192 final of 18 June 2020, which I attach as an annex to this letter for your records.

As per Article 7 of the Annex to the Commission Decision on approving the agreement with Member States on procuring COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the Member States and related procedures, the obligation not to negotiate separately now fully enters into force. I hereby wish to remind you that by signing the present Agreement, Member States confirm their participation in the procedure and agree not to launch their own procedures for advance purchase of that vaccine with the same manufacturers. In case an Advance Purchase Agreement (APA) containing an obligation to acquire vaccine doses has been concluded with a specific manufacturer, the Member States having made use of the opt-out provided under the Agreement can enter into separate negotiations with the same manufacturer after the APA under the present Agreement has been signed.

Mr Hugo de Jonge
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport
Parnassusplein 5, 2511 VX Den Haag
P.O. Box 20350 – 2500 EJ The Hague, the Netherlands

Allow me to take the opportunity to reiterate our mission to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in the EU and in the world, as common goods for health.

I look forward to our continued close cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



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Enclosed:

- Commission Decision C(2020) 4192 approving the agreement with Member States on procuring COVID-19 vaccines on behalf of the Member States and related procedures, with Annex;
- Commission Decision C(2020) 4193 amending the ESI Financing Decision C(2020)2794 as regards the financing of the Vaccine Instrument, with Annex.