



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PRIME MINISTER

Ljubljana, 18 January 2021

Dear Madame President,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Commission for its leadership in organising the EU's joint procurement of vaccines and its cooperation with Member States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite many efforts and implemented measures in several areas, we remain deeply concerned by the spread of COVID-19.

We are all aware that vaccination is the most effective tool in public health and we are convinced that it will help us fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, we support all common and coordinated action at the EU level, especially the implementation of the EU vaccination strategy and the making available COVID-19 vaccines for European citizens.

Starting with vaccination of the most vulnerable and exposed groups, the beginning of the vaccination programme in Slovenia has been successful. Interest in vaccination is greater than the availability of vaccines, and therefore we support solutions that can accelerate the production of those vaccines that already have marketing authorisation and grant marketing authorisation to other producers with safe and efficient vaccines of high quality as soon as possible.

I would like to inform you that Slovenia supports the proposal of the Prime Minister of Greece regarding the vaccination certificates and concrete solutions, as this will be essential for the free movement of people and the new tourist season and will have significant social and economic consequences. In this regard, Slovenia supports an agreement on common criteria for the content of vaccination certificates. We also support his idea regarding re-establishment of freedom of movement not only between Member States but also with third countries.

Additionally, I fully agree with the letter of the Prime Minister of Denmark. I share her concerns about the overwhelming of our health system and the call for further urgent action to strengthen our common resilience. All the five points mentioned in the letter are relevant and necessary for discussion.

*Her Excellency
Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission*

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As I said at the informal video conference of EU health ministers, where I participated in my capacity as the Slovenian health minister, we propose strengthening EU's preparedness capacity through joint EU research and manufacturing infrastructure, not only for the production of COVID-19 vaccines, but also for other vaccines, medicinal products and personal protective equipment. We need to be well prepared for possible future healthcare and economic crises caused by serious health threats.

To conclude, we believe that joint EU communication activities on vaccines are crucial. Our common aim needs to be increasing confidence in vaccines and raising awareness that safe and effective vaccines have been provided to all citizens in order to protect them against COVID-19. Bearing in mind the challenges still posed by the pandemic and the threat of different large-scale crises the EU might face in the future, it is the intention of Slovenia to place crisis preparedness and resilience at the forefront of Presidency priorities in the second half of 2021.

I am looking forward to our discussion at the forthcoming Informal European Council.

Yours Sincerely,


Janez Janša

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