



MINISTER-PRESIDENT

Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission

Nr.: 3731411

The Hague, 16 April 2020

Dear Mrs. President,

We find ourselves in the midst of an unseen medical and sanitary challenge. The Covid-19 pandemic is heavily affecting our populations and our medical facilities are being tested to their limits.

As we start seeing the first perspectives of how to master this pandemic, we are also confronted with a difficult reality. It is a reality that highlights our strong dependence on personal protection equipment, and mouth masks in particular.

The European Commission has shown leadership at an early stage, by initiating several initiatives on common procurement. Our countries are grateful for this.

Yet, more is needed. Credible exit strategies can only work with more and faster available stockpiles of PPE.

Second, the Joint Procurement Initiative must be deployed in the fastest possible ways, and in a proactive manner. We feel it is important that this be done with and for all Member States.

Also, national measures regarding the limitation of intra-European trade of personal protective equipment, medical devices and pharmaceuticals must be avoided as this hampers the solidarity and the quality of care for our people.

And last -but by no means least- the Emergency Support Instrument should be activated immediately and unconditionally, focusing on the hardest hit regions and most precarious situations. Possible additional financing will have to be decided by Member States. Coherence with other EU and national initiatives and fast implementation are key. Particularly in light of the procurement challenge we all face worldwide.

United we stand, and united we will prevail.

Sincerely yours,

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