



Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Mr. Charles Michel
President of the European Council

13 March 2021 - Ljubljana, Prague, Riga, Sofia, Vienna, Zagreb

Dear Ursula, dear Charles,

Together we have been fighting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic now for more than a year and together we have concluded that the vaccine will be the game-changer in this fight.

In this context, we want to reiterate our gratitude to you and your teams for your tireless efforts to ensure, enhance and accelerate vaccine delivery for all European citizens in challenging circumstances and record times.

We have agreed to join forces in this endeavor because we know that we are stronger together as EU and because no one in the EU will be safe from the coronavirus before everyone is safe.

It is also a matter of European solidarity to ensure that all EU member states, big or small, have equal access to the scarce resource that COVID-19 vaccines currently represent. In your conclusions after the videoconference of members of the European Council on 21 January Charles therefore also stated that: *„Leaders reaffirmed that vaccines should be distributed at the same time and must be on a pro rata/population basis.“*

In recent days, however, we have discovered that contrary to this understanding, deliveries of vaccine doses by pharma companies to individual EU member states are not being implemented on an equal basis following the pro rata population key.

If this system were to carry on, it would continue creating and exacerbating huge disparities among Member States by this summer, whereby some would be able to reach herd immunity in a few weeks while others would lag far behind.

In our view, this would be contrary not only to our agreement but also to the spirit of European solidarity. We all started our vaccination campaigns together on so-called “vaccination days” at the end of December and the Commission rightly set common EU vaccination targets for the second quarter of 2021. We now must ensure that all Member States are on an equal footing to reach these targets.

We therefore call on you, Charles, to hold a discussion on this important matter among leaders as soon as possible.

Many thanks and best regards,



Sebastian Kurz
Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria



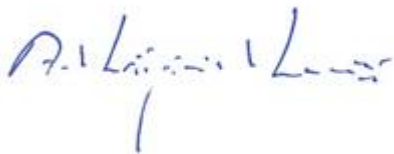
Boyko Borissov
Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria



Andrej Plenković
Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia



Andrej Babiš
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic



Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš
Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia



Janez Janša
Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia