



The Prime Minister



THE PRIME MINISTER



PREZES RADY MINISTRÓW



EL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO

Brussels, Copenhagen, Vilnius, Warsaw, Madrid
23 February 2021

Dear Charles and dear colleagues,

The extraordinary EUCO this week comes at the right time. Europe's timely access to sufficient vaccines remains an unsolved challenge. In spite of the unprecedented speedy development of new high-quality vaccines, production difficulties are ongoing and lead to major delays. In combination with the emergence of new COVID variants, this risks jeopardizing our path to full recovery and normal life.

The Commission has recently put forward a number of proposals to ensure that we move towards greater health resilience in the future. We welcome these initiatives, which are much needed and timely.

Our key message today is that we urgently need to integrate and strategically steer our value chain to boost our vaccine production capacities in Europe. We need to provide the right support to Europe-based producers in case unexpected problems emerge during the production process. Existing production facilities will need to be adapted. New ones will need to be built. This should enable us to provide – also in the future - all our citizens in Europe access to new vaccines, including mRNA-vaccines, when we will be needing to revaccinate and to adapt our vaccination programs to mutations or even to new pandemics.

Effectively tackling our problems of production capacities is also critical for us to assume our ambition of international solidarity and boosting, as Team Europe, the wider roll out of vaccination in our partner countries through-out the world.

We hope that this week's EUCO will send the strongest possible message that there is no time to waste in this effort. There is a need for a shift in our mindset on how to approach this issue collectively. This strategic matter concerns us, Leaders, directly. We need to make things happen.

We need – together with the Commission - to work closely with all potential vaccine producers in Europe, boosting public-private partnerships across the entire value chain to increase R&D efforts, ramp-up and adapt supply capacity . We should be ready to look openly at the possible ways and needs to ensure funding to

facilitate the efforts. The approach should reflect that we cannot afford to lose this battle.

We look forward to discussing these issues further with you, the Commission President and all colleagues at the upcoming EUCO.

Yours Sincerely,



Alexander De Croo
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of
Belgium



Mette Frederiksen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of
Denmark



Gitanas Nausėda
President of the Republic of Lithuania



Mateusz Morawiecki
Prime Minister of the Republic of
Poland



Pedro Sánchez
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of
Spain