

Tomáš Zdechovský

Member of the European Parliament

Madame President
Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

In Prague, 22 April 2020

Dear Madame President,

The whole world is now in the middle of an unprecedented struggle, unknown to this generation. A crisis of this scale is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges the world has been dealing with since the Second World War. With thousands of deaths each day and already over 2,5 million people infected, the only thing we can do is to put all our hope in the workers in the front lines and to support them as best as we can. Although each Member State took a different approach in combatting the spread of the virus, the numbers across Europe are starting to look hopeful. We firmly trust that the first wave of the virus will be defeated soon and that we can finally start rebuilding our societies and economies again.

According to the recent researches, multiple subsequent waves of the virus are expected. In the future, we have to be better prepared to fight the pandemic and we have to utilize the best practices we learned from our current experience. One thing we can already say for certain is that the world was desperately unprepared for the pandemic.

Madame President, **We the Members of the European Parliament are calling for establishing an International Commission of Inquiry, to investigate the origin and reasons behind the outbreak of COVID-19.** So far, there are multiple theories of why the coronavirus has caught the world unprepared. Whether it has been the negligent approach to the viral threat by the World Health Organization, deliberate manipulation with numbers of infected people in China - the country where the coronavirus originated - for economic profit or whether the truth is somewhere else. More importantly, the outcomes by an International Commission of Inquiry could be a valuable source of information, which would help us to prepare better and more effectively for the possible recurrent waves of the coronavirus in the future.

We, the Members of the European Parliament, believe it is crucial to investigate the reasons why the global pandemic caught us by such a surprise, how to avoid the mistakes in the future and whether to sanction the perpetrators – should the investigation find any. The health and well-being of the European citizens is our absolute priority. We are certain your goal is the exact same. EU should be proactive in establishing such an International Commission of Inquiry and offer expertise via its agencies such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Medicines Agency, Eurojust, Europol or the European External Action Service.

Please support our proposal for establishing an International Commission of Inquiry, so that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated again.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the European Parliament

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