



Der Vorsitzende - The Chairman - Le Président

Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Charles Michel  
President of the European Council  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 6 May 2020

Dear President Ursula von der Leyen,

Dear President Charles Michel,

In the light of the discussions in the European Council and the forthcoming proposals of the European Commission, the EPP Group would like to convey its expectations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) as well as the proposal for a Recovery Plan.

The EPP Group has always stood for a future-proof MFF, capable of responding to needs of European citizens' but also cater for unforeseen events. There should be no doubt that our citizens expect us to show leadership. We therefore welcome the willingness showed during the last European Council to move forward with an ambitious recovery fund.

However, the final MFF deal, together with any Recovery Plan that the Commission will put forward, cannot be merely an agreement between the Council and the Commission. It must also be agreed with the European Parliament.

We therefore call on you to ensure that the **European Parliament is fully involved in the decision-making process and in the adoption and the implementation of the Recovery Plan** and we reject any attempt to side-line the only directly elected institution of the EU. Every budget, because it implies essential political choices on how and for what we spend the money, to whom it will benefit and where the money come from, requires in every democratic system a fundamental involvement and oversight of Parliament. The Recovery Fund cannot be an exception to this basic rule of democracy and legitimacy.

[manfred.weber@ep.europa.eu](mailto:manfred.weber@ep.europa.eu) - [www.eppgroup.eu](http://www.eppgroup.eu)

We will also reject any attempt to establish a Plan, which results in a smaller MFF in the future. Our position on the MFF, adopted in November 2018, had already argued for a budget that is capable of responding to present and future challenges. However, the Covid-19 pandemic now prompts us to go beyond that position and be even more ambitious. We therefore expect the Commission to put forward a massive recovery and reconstruction package, as demanded by the Parliament in its Resolution of 15 April 2020, that would be financed through an increased MFF and also include new own resources.

The EPP Group wants this Plan to be financed over and above existing or upcoming EU policies and must not affect our long-term priorities nor result in a smaller MFF.

We trust that like us, you share the view that the European Union cannot afford another lost generation of young people who after the financial crisis of 2008/2012, are now faced with the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Millions of jobs have already been lost, countless family business have already gone bankrupt and several thousand SMEs and industries are struggling to survive. The EU has to be up to the task for these workers and businesses.

Given the global nature of the pandemic, Europe cannot lag behind while the USA and China adopt week after week stimulus packages to help their economies recover and to save their industries, while we take the risk to submit our vulnerable ones to aggressive foreign takeovers. Our workers, farmers, regions, students, hospitals, universities, scientists, companies, need a strong signal from Europe.

Therefore, we wish to make it clear that the EPP Group will only adopt a MFF, which complies with the following four criteria: adequate financing of traditional policies, support for future-orientated policies, a massive recovery plan for the post-Covid-19 pandemic fully linked to the MFF including a €50 billion EU Coronavirus Solidarity Fund, specifically designed to support the financial efforts undertaken by the healthcare sectors of all Member States during the current crisis as well as a sufficient margin for unexpected crises in the future.

**The EPP Group will only give its consent if the MFF and Recovery Plan proposals respect these core criteria.** We expect the Commission and the Council to share the same level of ambition and to put forward proposals that will truly enable the EU to overcome the unprecedented crisis triggered by the pandemic. European citizens expect nothing less from us.

We remain committed to working with you to meet the expectations of European citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Siegfried Mureşan, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group



Manfred Weber, Chairman of the EPP Group

