

Brussels, 9th of February 2021

Open letter for a Joint and Comprehensive European Strategy to Contain Covid19

Ahead of Wednesday's debate in the European Parliament on the state of play of the EU's COVID19 Vaccination Strategy, we, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, ask the European Commission and the European Member States to follow scientific advice and implement the call and measures to Contain Covid, which is supported by hundreds of scientists around Europe.

The current "ping-pong" of uncoordinated lockdowns all over Europe wears down people, wreaks havoc on businesses, impedes children's education while still thousands of Europeans die every day and our health staff are on the brink of collapse.

It is time to coordinate a pan-European strategy to reduce COVID19 cases to 10 new cases per 1.000.000 inhabitants per day. This number can be reached by a comprehensive suppression strategy, as recommended by more than 300 interdisciplinary European scientists.

We support the measures that have been successfully applied by countries that have managed to vanquish the virus, such as New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam and Thailand. As the European Union is, epidemiologically spoken, one single zone, measures have to be coordinated so that borders can remain open.

The spread of the new variants of Sars-Cov-2 is extremely worrying. Even without these new mutants, numbers in Europe continue to be too high to effectively conduct a functioning contact tracing and thus, to constrain the spread of the virus. Even though numbers in some areas give hope, we must not give in to the illusion that it is the right time for reopening. To avoid a constant ping-pong of lockdowns and through this, risking losing the trust and patience of our citizens, we must now take comprehensive and coordinated measures to finally constrain this virus.

Especially with the emergence of new virus variants, which are more contagious and in some cases more dangerous than the original variant, the threat of new lockdowns already looms on the horizon. Additionally, some vaccines proved to be less effective against the mutants - a worrisome development that urges to take comprehensive action before it is too late. Relating to the Robert Koch Institute in Germany, the variant B117 already accounts to six percent of all positive tests in Germany. If we do not act now, B117 might be the dominant variant by April. And the danger of new mutations grows more than ever.

Contain Covid: <https://www.containcovid-pan.eu/>

Sincerely yours

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