

Athens, Copenhagen, Prague, Vienna – 19 January 2021

Dear Charles,

We are writing to you ahead of our videoconference on Thursday 21 January on COVID-19 coordination where one of the main topics will rightly be the ongoing vaccination campaigns.

The vaccine is the real game changer in our joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and we are grateful for all the achievements to promote and ensure the development, production and purchase of vaccines at EU level.

As the rollout of available vaccine doses from Biontech/Pfizer and Moderna is progressing in our respective countries, we are eagerly awaiting the delivery of additional vaccines from other producers with which the EU has entered into purchase agreements.

In our view, the European Council should therefore send out a strong signal to the European Medicines Agency on Thursday to ensure the approval procedure for vaccine candidates – currently the one developed by the University of Oxford / AstraZeneca, but naturally also for all other companies applying for authorization in the future – is as efficient as possible.

We are in a global health crisis where every day counts to save lives. We therefore expect EU agencies to work as fast as possible and focus strictly on what is scientifically required in order to accelerate the process of authorization while adhering to all scientific standards.

Similarly, we expect vaccine-producing companies to be ready for delivery of their jabs as soon as they get market authorization including through pre-authorization distribution. It is critical that no time is lost once we have the expected approval. This is also important in view of achieving the goal of vaccinating 70% of European citizens by the summer, as proposed by the European Commission.

Dear Charles, as our President, we would like to ask you to ensure that these important messages are conveyed on behalf of the European Council at our upcoming meeting.

Thanking you in advance, we remain,

With best regards,



Sebastian Kurz
Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria



Andrej Babiš
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic



Mette Frederiksen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark



Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic