



European Council of the Liberal Professions

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Brussels the 2nd of April 2020

Dear President Michel,
Dear President von der Leyen,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the European Council of the Liberal Professions, the only organisation bringing together national inter professional associations and European mono professional bodies.

Since our establishment in the 1970's we have strived to bring to the European institutions with loyalty and sincerity the voice of our sector, the professions of healthcare, of law, of number and of engineering, who as you know play a very responsible and central role for the well-functioning of democracy and the state of law.

As you are of course aware, at this moment, when all of our societies are experiencing unique and very strict situations of confinement and many of our fellow citizens are battling for their lives against a terrible and not yet curable disease, our colleagues from healthcare are in the front line of risk and are giving their very best for the virus to be defeated and normalcy to return, putting their patients above themselves, in accordance with the ethical and deontological rules they have always professed.

These professionals and their families, along with all their other colleagues in our sector who are also working hard in order for our system to continue to function, making sure the law is respected, the finances are correctly managed and new facilities are being built to alleviate the pressure of our current ones, have always been, in their vast majority, strong supporters of the European project, loyal to the European authorities and convinced Europhiles.

Unfortunately, the lack of coordination and even worse the lack of courage that have rendered quite weak the European Union's reaction to the pandemic and to the very gloomy predictions for the income of our families when the current emergency will be over, has created a feeling of disappointment with our European institutions that is now growing even amongst our ranks, especially after the last summit of our Heads of State and government.

I feel it is my duty to let you know of this feeling, to let you know of the fact that thousands amongst our colleagues, especially in the countries most touched by the virus, are increasingly thinking that the EU is doing too little and too slowly its bit to fight this battle, without innovation, putting finances over humanity.

I would thus like to unite my voice with that of many others in calling upon you to please bring in proposals that could provide solutions adapted to the gravity of the situation we are all experiencing, including revisiting, for example, the priorities of funds available for European projects for this year and the years to come.

We are all sincerely and loyally hoping Europe won't let us down. Let these difficult days be remembered as the time our Union was able to demonstrate its utility and efficiency and realise a new beginning for the benefit of its citizens.

Do count on our support!

Sincerely,



Gaetano Stella
President of CEPLIS