

To the Presidency of the European Council
President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of the Republic of Portugal
Prime Minister António Costa of the Republic of Portugal

Brussels, 24 March 2021
Ref.nr.: 21.39292

Franklinstraat 106-108
1000 Brussels

Belgium

T + 32 2 735 83 96

F + 32 2 735 84 66

E info@pa-international.org

Your Excellencies,

May we congratulate you with the Portuguese EU Presidency's initiative to hold, tomorrow, the important conference on 'Strengthening the EU role on Global Health'. No doubt this will address, among others, the relationship between the devastating consequences of both Covid-19 and a potential outbreak of totally- or multiple-resistant bacteria (AMR, Antimicrobial Resistance) and the effort to create a new EU institution tasked with the prevention of and preparedness for such outbreaks. Denmark, other Member States and experts have pointed at potential weaknesses in the so-called HERA (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority) approach of the European Commission. These were recently exacerbated in the Environment and Public Health Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament. On the basis of broad and in-depth consultations with the world's most prominent experts on pandemics and notably AMR (www.stopAMR.eu), with experienced (Elder) Statesmen and societal and industrial leaders the PA International Foundation developed a document to 'complete' the HERA proposal. This combines historical experiences and future expectations through a spectrum of options and takes the increasingly relevant European Defense Agency and the requirement of democracy- and transparency-based control through the European Parliament as points of departure. The first response from Members of the European Parliament and others is positive.

In modesty, we request you to use the argumentation and legal and institutional considerations in your final decision-making towards that one option Europe has to truly protect its citizens, its industrial sectors and its economy against any next pandemic. Under the current circumstances the European Commission simply lacks the position to foster unity among the Member States. This may be fatal in the near future. An EDA-modelled European Health Security Council with key Commission input through the current (2013-initiated) European Health Security Committee may be the answer. Thank you very much for your much-appreciated attention and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Mark Eyskens
Former Prime Minister of Belgium
Chairman



Ad Melkert
Former Under Secretary General of the UN
Vice Chairman

Attachment: Memorandum: 'HERA (EU BARDA) – Mortal Challenges and how to address these', and Attachment on proposed adapted Structure and Organisation to include Council and European Parliament

This letter is also sent to: All Members of the European Council
The Presidium of the European Parliament
All Group Leaders in the European Parliament
All Presidents of the EU National Parliaments