



Brussels, 21 April 2020

Dear [NAME GOVERNMENT LEADER],

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses, researchers and authorities have been working on the development of contact tracing applications as part of the response to the pandemic. As you well know, these apps can send alerts to people who have been in close proximity to an infected person, so that they may take an informed decision, for instance to self-quarantine. In the past weeks, several Member States have taken steps in developing such an application. While the Commission has published a recommendation and toolbox in order to get to a common coordinated EU approach, several member states haven't taken steps in developing or selecting such an application.

We, Members of European Parliament, would like to underline that a fully functioning Internal Market and restored free movement within the Schengen area will be key to the recovery of many of our sectors. In this context of contact tracing apps, a common European approach, in the shape of a single EU app or seamless interoperability between different national versions with European standards on the software, technical features, and privacy guarantees, is the only solution to return to a more normal situation for our citizens and businesses. Contact tracing applications should be moreover linked to a common understanding on what is necessary and sufficient from an epidemiological point of view. Guidance of EU bodies such as the European Centre for Diseases and Control should be consistently applied throughout the Union, in close cooperation with relevant health authorities.

Before the current crisis, 1.5 million citizens worked in another Member State than where they lived. In 2017, a GDP gain of €106 billion was achieved thanks to free movement for workers. Every year, 90 million tourist trips are made within the EU, contributing 2% to the EU's GDP. 1.7 million EU students study in another Member State, and in 2018, 853,000 people studied, trained or volunteered abroad through the Erasmus+ programme.

These figures show that if we would like these cross-border movements to continue and important sectors of our economy to recover, a common European approach is essential to combat this virus and ensure that our citizens can return to their normal lives as quickly as possible. We therefore call on you to make full use of the Commission's expertise and coordination offered in its recommendation and toolbox.

Kind regards,

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