

OPEN AND URGENT LETTER TO EUROPEAN UNION HEALTH MINISTERS

This is an open letter to all European Union Health Ministers relating to the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Assembly, 18-19 May 2020.

To the Ministers of Health of the Member States of the European Union,

The Corona Crisis will dominate the World Health Assembly to be held on 18-19 May, in Geneva, through a ministerial video conference. As the virus knows no borders, nationalities and ideologies, the world needs to share all available information and expertise that can be helpful to combat the pandemic.

That is why we, the undersigned members of the European and national Parliaments, urge you to insist that the World Health Organisation (WHO) returns to the pragmatic protocol - practiced from 2009 to 2016 - of inviting Taiwan as an observer to this meeting format. The Taiwanese government has successfully managed to curb the spread of the virus in spite of Taiwan's geographic proximity to the virus origin.

The United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have officially taken the position to return to the 2009 – 2016 format.

We therefore request that Taiwan's Minister of Health and Welfare, Chen Shih Chung, be invited to attend this year's virtual WHA videoconference, as an observer, to share with us Taiwan's successful experience in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, we request that the WHO facilitate appropriate and feasible arrangements for Taiwan to participate in all WHO meetings, mechanisms and activities.

In the interests of a pragmatic, science-based approach to global health, we look forward to receiving a positive response from you.

Thank you and best wishes,

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