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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
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To all MEPs signatory to the letter on WHO cooperation with Taiwan

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your message of 17 April in which you stressed the importance of including Taiwan in the World Health Organisation (WHO) work against the COVID-19 pandemic and other international health risks.

A global pandemic needs global solutions. For that reason, we are in contact with partners around the world to help build a coordinated international response, using international fora, as the WHO. Taiwan is one of numerous global partners in this regard. We have welcomed the donation from Taiwan of masks to a number of EU Member States through RescEU mechanisms and bilateral channels.

By taking timely containment measures, Taiwan has so far been very successful in containing the spread of the virus. Its researchers also appear to have achieved positive results as regards new testing and vaccines. Commission and EEAS officials, both in Brussels and in Taipei, are in close contact with the Taiwanese authorities and experts, including from research centres, to exchange know-how, learn from Taiwanese experience to share best practices and to discuss relevant collaboration possibilities, including in relation to testing and vaccine research.

While the EU is not itself a member of the WHO (having observer status), we have always promoted practical solutions regarding Taiwan's participation in international frameworks, wherever this is consistent with the EU's 'One China' policy and the EU's policy objectives. The coronavirus outbreak seems to me a clear case where Taiwan's experience, technical competence and capacities bring an added value.

On 6 February, the EU Member States delivered a common statement in the WHO Executive Board, in which they reminded the international community that it was of critical importance to avoid loopholes in communication and that no region, institution or community should be left behind. They also stressed that ensuring that communities were well informed and trust the response was crucial to controlling an outbreak.

Let me assure you, that the EU will continue developing cooperation with Taiwan on health and other issues of common and global interest, and supporting Taiwan's practical and meaningful participation in meetings of the WHO.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles