



CHAMBRE DES DÉPUTÉS  
GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Letter to the COSAC Chairpersons

Luxembourg, July 17, 2020

Dear colleagues,

The COVID-19 sanitary crisis is still going on. In some EU member states, like Sweden infection rates are still high, or they are unfortunately rising again like in Portugal, Greece or Luxembourg. New hotspots have appeared here and there, and the situation is changing from day to day. Again, some EU member states take measures and restrict travelling to other EU member states.

Especially now, at the time of summer holidays, the tourism sector is beginning to take up its activities. But in many places, it is not clear if airlines can fly, neither if hotels can accept their customers. Rules are changing from day to day and many people are not allowed to travel or respect their hotel reservation.

We have to react, in order to offer some kind of safety for those who plan their travels, whether it is for professional or for private purposes. People should know in advance which rules they have to follow. And there should not be 27 different rules, but it is necessary to fix the same standard of rules and to seek the same effects in all of our countries.

We are all affected by this crisis, and we all try our best to keep the level of infections as low as possible.

Luxembourg, for example, has adopted a strategy based on large scale testing. This allows detecting a vast number of asymptomatic infected people. Indeed, Luxembourg tests about 20 times more citizens (as well as commuters) than our neighbouring countries. However, the number of hospitalized persons infected by Covid-19 stays low and the number of deaths has not significantly increased since the end of May. But still, Luxembourg is put on lists of countries with high risk of infection, which means that travelling is difficult, if not impossible for Luxembourg's citizens. Portugal, Sweden and Greece are in a similar situation and it is very likely that comparable conditions might appear elsewhere in Europe in the coming months.

Today, we are in a situation that allows citizens from the neighbour regions in Germany to stay up to 72 hours in Luxembourg and to return in their countries without any consequences. Luxembourg citizens going to the same regions in Germany have to produce a negative Covid-19 test not older than 48 hours. For our citizens, it is not easy to understand such measures, and the risk of division in the European Union is higher than ever.



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This seems not to be the right way to convince our citizens of a united Europe. What we are seeing now is rather a drifting away between member states. We should cooperate and adopt the same rules to give our citizens enough security to travel and to preserve one of the EU's cornerstones: freedom of movement.

Dear colleagues, I hope you will agree with me in this point and convince your executives to agree on a set of common rules to be adopted by the Council.

Hoping to see you all back in good health at our next meeting in autumn,

With best regards,

Yves Cruchten,  
Chairman of the COSAC delegation of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg