

To: Mr David Maria Sassoli, President of the European Parliament  
[david.sassoli@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:david.sassoli@europarl.europa.eu)

Copy to: Presidents of EP Political Groups, European Ombudsman:  
Ms Emily O'Reilly) - [eo@ombudsman.europa.eu](mailto:eo@ombudsman.europa.eu),  
[manfred.weber@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:manfred.weber@europarl.europa.eu), [iratxe.garcia-perez@ep.europa.eu](mailto:iratxe.garcia-perez@ep.europa.eu),  
[dacian.ciolos@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:dacian.ciolos@europarl.europa.eu),  
[franziska.keller@ep.europa.eu](mailto:franziska.keller@ep.europa.eu), [philippe.lamberts@ep.europa.eu](mailto:philippe.lamberts@ep.europa.eu),  
[marco.zanni@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:marco.zanni@europarl.europa.eu),  
[gabriel.beszlej@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:gabriel.beszlej@europarl.europa.eu),  
[manon.aubry@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:manon.aubry@europarl.europa.eu),  
[martin.schirdewan@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:martin.schirdewan@europarl.europa.eu),  
[reneweuropegroup@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:reneweuropegroup@europarl.europa.eu), [id.sg@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:id.sg@europarl.europa.eu)

## **OPEN OUR PETITION**

**Re: Petitions concerning “COVID-19: Respect of fundamental rights and liberties of European citizens”**

Dear President Sassoli,

We are writing as representatives of organisations in nineteen countries (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Italy, and Croatia) who have petitioned the European Parliament about the preservation of fundamental rights and liberties in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis.

For your reference, our linked petitions bear the numbers 1397/2020 (Belgium), 1399/2020 (France), 1401/2020 (Portugal), 1438/2020 (Romania), 1469/2020 (Norway), 1501/2020, 0046/2020 (Ireland), 0038/2021, 0152/2021.

Our petitions were admitted on March 9th under ‘urgency procedure’ after three months of lobbying the Secretariat and Members of the PETI Committee. A hearing in the European Parliament of petitioners should follow for the petitions that are open.

However, many others await admittance 0038/2021 and 0152/2021 which gathers petitions for Latvia, Luxembourg, Croatia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Germany and 3 for Italy registered with a single reference. We have sent several emails to PETI Secretariat

enquiring about the admittance and opening to public support of the remaining petitions 0038/2021 and 0152/2021 as they are all part of the same European wide effort.

We are urging you, as President of the Parliament, to immediately open all our petitions to public support on the petition website of the European Parliament. Articles 20, 24 and 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and Article 44 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, guarantee our right as European citizens to petition and express opinion. The same Article 20 (TFEU) includes the provision that makes the European Parliament members our elected representatives. **We are counting on you to represent our interests and defend our rights as the people of the European Union.**

We appreciate that this is a particularly busy time and we understand the priorities of the European Parliament. However, the preservation of European citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms has never been so urgent especially in light of the Parliament's decision to approve the Digital Green Certificate. Rarely, if ever, have there been petitions of such gravity presented to the European Parliament which represent the collective concern of Europeans from across the nations.

The speed at which decisions have been made this past year have profoundly affected our EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE. We, the people, were never called to express our views in line with 'normal' public consultation processes. If the European people are not NOW allowed to express the opinion and influence decisions on the matters of fundamental importance raised by these petitions, we are afraid that TOMORROW the trust in EU institutions will be lost for ever.

We are counting on you, Mr President, to listen to the voices of the European people and enable us to exercise our fundamental rights.

Sincerely,

List of signatories:

NAME/Organisation/ Country