Dear European friends,

For you who want to lodge the petition (attached Word English version) just for you to know that this petition has been prepared by few EC insiders that are against the system. It was prepared attentively, in line with all the EC requirements to increase the chances of making it published and give the opportunity to all of us to support it.

The petition is to bring to the attention of the EP, as the democratically elected representatives of the peoples of Europe, a whole set of infringements of fundamental rights and freedoms during the corona crisis. Furthermore, the petitioners are **asking the EP to immediately organise a Parliamentary investigation commission** that should rely on an **independent committee of international experts** that should look into the scientific basis that constituted the basis for decisions by authorities during this period (testing, treatment, vaccination, reliability of figures of 'infected' and covid-related deaths, use of masks, closing of school and religious institutions, lockdowns etc), as well as into the decision-making process. Finally, the petition is asking the EP to require justification from governments and EU executive on the spending of tax-payers' money on the covid-related measures.

Procedurally speaking, one single petition is sufficient to trigger a procedure in the European Parliament on this subject. But for the purpose of making democratic point and pressure on the EP, we should be as many European nations to lodge this petition as possible. There is no need to repeat a petition twice or more within the same nation (although it does not hurt either, up to you). Up to this date the petition has been lodged by France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Italy, and Croatia organisations or private persons. Some of these national petitions – [1397/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/fr/petition/content/1397%2525252F2020/html/P%252525C3%252525A9tition-no%252525C2%252525A01397%2525252F2020%2525252C-pr%252525C3%252525A9sent%252525C3%252525A9e-par-Hilde-De-Smet%2525252C-de-nationalit%252525C3%252525A9-belge%2525252C-au-nom-de-%252525C2%252525ABDocs-4-open-debate%252525C2%252525BB%2525252C-sur-les-droits-et-libert%252525C3%252525A9s-fondamentaux-des-citoyens-de-l%252525E2%25252580%25252599Union-pendant-la-pand%252525C3%252525A9mie-de-COVID-19) - Belgian, [1399/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/fr/petition/content/1399%2525252F2020/html/P%252525C3%252525A9tition-no%252525C2%252525A01399%2525252F2020%2525252C-pr%252525C3%252525A9sent%252525C3%252525A9e-par-Thibault-Mercier%2525252C-de-nationalit%252525C3%252525A9-fran%252525C3%252525A7aise%2525252C-au-nom-du-Cercle-Droit-%25252526-Libert%252525C3%252525A9%2525252C-sur-les-droits-et-libert%252525C3%252525A9s-fondamentaux-des-citoyens-de-l%252525E2%25252580%25252599Union-pendant-la-pand%252525C3%252525A9mie-de-COVID-19) - French, [1401/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/fr/petition/content/1401%2525252F2020/html/P%252525C3%252525A9tition-no%252525C2%252525A01401%2525252F2020%2525252C-pr%252525C3%252525A9sent%252525C3%252525A9e-par-A.%252525C2%252525A0R.%2525252C-de-nationalit%252525C3%252525A9-portugaise%2525252C-sur-les-droits-et-libert%252525C3%252525A9s-fondamentaux-des-citoyens-de-l%252525E2%25252580%25252599Union-pendant-la-pand%252525C3%252525A9mie-de-COVID-19) – Portuguese, [1438/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/fr/petition/content/1438%2525252F2020/html/P%252525C3%252525A9tition-n%252525C2%252525BA%252525C2%252525A01438%2525252F2020%2525252C-pr%252525C3%252525A9sent%252525C3%252525A9e-par-E.I.%2525252C-de-nationalit%252525C3%252525A9-roumaine%2525252C-sur-les-droits-et-libert%252525C3%252525A9s-fondamentaux-des-citoyens-de-l%252525E2%25252580%25252599Union-pendant-la-pand%252525C3%252525A9mie-de-COVID-19) - Romanian, [1469/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/petition/content/1469%25252F2020/html/Petition-No-1469%25252F2020-by-H.R.-%252528Norwegian%252529-on-fundamental-freedoms-and-citizens%2525E2%252580%252599-rights-in-the-EU-amid-Covid-19) – Norwegian, [1501/2020](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/petition/content/1501%25252F2020/html/Petition-No-1501%25252F2020-by-D.K.-%252528Irish%252529-on-Covid-19%25253A-fundamental-rights-and-freedoms-of-the-citizens-of-the-European-Union) - Irish – have already been admitted by the PETI Committee and sent to the European Commission for investigation and to the LIBE Committee for opinion. They are open to public support. Many others await admittance. A hearing in the European Parliament of petitioners should follow for the petitions that are open.

Please note that once published by EP, the petition will be open to public support/ voting. Any European citizen or resident will have the right to push the button "support" for this petition. We will need to mobilize all our networks to send the message far and wide, so that millions of people in Europe can exercise their democratic right and signal to the EP that they demand explanations about this period. They can do so by supporting this petition.

If you decide to lodge the petition kindly let me **know about all the lodgings of the petition that you know about** (if you mobilise some of your contacts), in particular **send me the registration number the EP will send you**, as the petitioners are making pressure on some EPs on the basis of their knowledge about new lodgings.

**Instructions:**

1. go to the EP's petition site [Registration | PETI | Committees | European Parliament](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/registration/register), choose your own language and register an account (takes 2 min);

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|  | Registration | PETI | Committees | European ParliamentStart page for creating an account and submitting a petition. Further links to the European Parliament website. |

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**During the registration you will be asked these questions (answers included, otherwise, if you provide different answers the system will push you back to the beginning)****Question 1 of 8****Does the issue of concern deal with cross-border problems caused by a potential breach of EU law by a public authority with regard to the EU's internal market?****No****Question 2 of 8****Does the issue you wish to raise concern a possible case of maladministration within one of the EU institutions or bodies (the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EIB, EPSO, EFSA, etc.) which affects you personally?****No****Question 3 of 8****Are you petitioning the European Parliament because you disagree with a decision or a judgement delivered by a court or a duly constituted legal tribunal?****No****Question 4 of 8****Does the subject of your concern fall clearly within the field of activity of the European Union, and are you directly affected?****Yes****Question 5 of 8****Are you a citizen or resident of the European Union, acting personally or on behalf of a voluntary association, civil society organisation or private company with its offices in an EU Member State?****Yes****Question 6 of 8****Do you wish to create or lend your support to a European Citizens' Initiative, as established under the terms of Article 11 paragraph 4 of the Lisbon Treaty?****No****Question 7 of 8****Are you seeking information about the European Parliament or do you wish to communicate an observation concerning the activities of Parliament or its members?****No****Question 8 of 8****Does the issue of concern relate to the way in which EU legislation is possibly being wrongly implemented or applied within your Member State? yes** |

2.     the petition is called "**COVID-19 - Fundamental Freedoms and Rights of Citizens of the European Union**" - we should all give it the same name in all languages, so that it can be found upon search on EP portal based on key terms.

3. lodge the petition (text attached - please try to translate it in your mother tongue before lodging, but if there is no time for that no problem, EP accepts a petition in any European Union language).

**What happens afterwards?**

a)     the **Secretariat** of the PETI Committee makes an assessment and puts it on the next available agenda of the Committee;

b)     the **Committee** takes a decision on its ***admissibility*** (and notifies the petitioner about it);

c)     once this decision taken, ***whether admitted or not***, the Petition is **published** on the website of the EP (not in full, but the title, name of petitioner (unless the person wants anonymity) and a summary in **all EU languages**);

d)     as of that moment, admissible petitions are **open for "support";** supporter's names are not published, only their total number is (this means that people who want to support this petition but want to remain anonymous, can do so).

Thus, the format and procedure of the EP makes it that there is no need to gather signatures *before* lodging the petition, the adherence to a petition can be expressed by lodging it again or by adding support to an existing one. Also, the support is not conditional or limited, which means that **you can support any number of similar petitions** lodged in the other EU languages (since they will all be translated in your own language, you can easily find out which are the similar petitions lodged by others).

The more support for all the petitions, the better!

Finally, needless to say that everyone is free to prepare their own messages, but this is ready-made material to help you out. The EN and FR versions reflect the FR and IE partner organisations, the reference to their websites in the text is to be adapted to each country/organisation.

Warm regards,

Serena & EU citizens’ initiative team