

The Chair

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Ms Jutta Urpilainen
Commissioner for International Partnerships

Dear Commissioner Urpilainen,

I am writing to you as Chair of the European Parliament Development Committee, ahead of the Global Vaccine Summit 2020 on 4 June.

In the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, the world continues to look at us to show great acts of leadership and solidarity. In line with your existing global approach and response, I encourage you to show once again true European leadership by committing EUR 300 million to Gavi's third donor pledging conference. Without this, Gavi's full replenishment is at risk of not meeting the target of at least USD 7.4 billion to prevent diseases, protect the next generation with vaccines, and create a healthier, safer and more prosperous world.

As you know, Gavi has been a trusted EU partner for almost two decades. We must be proud that, thanks also to ambitious EU support to date, Gavi has reached over 760 million children and saved 13 million lives. A fully-funded Gavi is absolutely essential to continue making progress. This is crucial not only to mitigate the immediate impact of COVID-19, but also to ensure that immunisation systems have the capacity to roll out safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 once available. However, to do so, immunisation programmes must carry on or poor countries will face a double penalty: the effect of this pandemic and the very real possibility of multiple and concurrent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. This was the scenario that unfolded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ebola deaths were high and an outbreak of measles killed 2.5 times as many people because resources were diverted from routine immunisation services.

The European Parliament welcomed Team Europe's response as part of the Coronavirus Global Response launched by the European Commission on 4 May 2020 and the efforts to bring global partners together in the fight against COVID-19, and also to join forces in the development of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. Yet this first step needs to be complemented by additional fresh resources, which need to be foreseen in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Cumulative effects of population growth and displacement, climate change, increasing fragility and recurrent disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic are threatening to reverse the progress the world has seen so far. This is not the time for complacency but for

renewed commitment to ensure that Gavi's lifesaving work over the next five years is fully equipped to help countries to continue to prevent diseases and protect their communities.

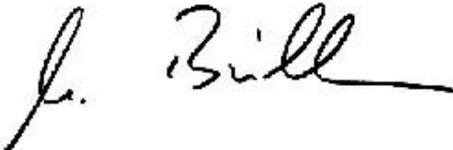
Yours sincerely,



Tomas TOBÉ
Chair



György HÖLVÉNYI
Coordinator EPP



Udo Bullman
Coordinator S&D



Charles Goerens
Coordinator RE



Beata KEMPA
Coordinator, ECR



Miguel URBÁN CRESPO
Coordinator, GUE/NGL

Copy: Mr Pascal Canfin, Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety