

SENT BY EMAIL

Letter for the attention of:

President of the European Commission
Mrs Ursula Von der Leyen

Amsterdam, 24 March 2020
FvH/vvh, 24032020

Dear President von der Leyen,

Thank you for reaching out to Philips to discuss how we can work together in addressing the COVID-19 crisis, in particular in relation to the availability of ventilators. Please find below an update on what Philips is doing, and how the EC could help accelerate our collective efforts to respond to the crisis.

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We will only succeed in the massive ramp-up of critical medical equipment if everyone acts together to keep global supply chains open, actively facilitate green lanes and logistics for goods, services, and essential personnel across the world, and apply fair and ethical allocation principles of scarce resources. I have spoken to CEO's of other Med Tech companies and Dr Tedros of WHO, who all agree on these priorities. We have also adopted fair and ethical allocation principles ourselves. However, it is imperative that governments resist protectionist impulses, as this will likely cause a chain reaction of measures that grinds global supply chains to a halt.



The EU plays a critical role in addressing this unprecedented crisis, and can help the industry ramp up production of ventilators and other essential medical devices by supporting the following measures:

1. Keep global supply chains open and accelerate supplies – equally important within the EU and outside (Asia, USA).

- We need clear guidance to Member States to keep essential suppliers open, facilitate green lanes for transport of goods and essential staff, i.e. drivers, service engineers.

2. Support fair and ethical allocation of COVID-19 essential supplies and devices.

- We welcome the EU tender on ventilators and the rescEU stockpile of medical equipment.
- We urge the EC to set up an EU wide allocation of ventilators, patient monitors and other essential devices as soon as possible.

3.

- 4. Protectionism:** We call upon governments to refrain from enacting restrictive measures, such as the EU export restrictions on PPE and medical equipment, as this will lead to rapid escalation between geographies, and consequently a grinding halt of global supply chains. This will also be detrimental to health of the EU populations. I would also like to draw attention about likely negative impact of protectionist measures on EU-US long-term relations and investment climate. We advise the enactment of orchestrated fair and ethical allocation principles instead of protectionism measures.

Philips' mission is to improve lives of people, regardless of where they live in the world. In the times of COVID-19 crisis, we count on your support. I remain available for further information and consultation on how we can best fight this crisis together.

Yours sincerely,



President & CEO Royal Philips

Email:

Mobile:

Copy to:

- Janez Lenarčič, EU Crisis Management Commissioner
- Frans Timmermans, EC Executive Vice-President
- Thierry Breton, EU Internal Market Commissioner
- Stella Kyriakides, EU Health and Food Safety Commissioner
- Phil Hogan, EU Trade Commissioner

