



**Comunidad
de Madrid**

PRESIDENTA

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Madrid, November 17th, 2020

Dear President Von Der Leyen,

I would like to start this letter by thanking for your presence at the last Spanish Regional Presidents Conference and your words regarding IFEMA hospital. We are pleased of being recognized by the European authorities in our fight against Covid19.

Also, I would like to appreciate your proposal for a common EU Health Safety testing protocol at airports, collected by the European Commission in the last recommendation on Covid-19 testing strategies.

Unfortunately, this second wave is currently hitting most of the European capitals and economic engines. It is time to act firmly and consistently to fight against this virus and minimize its impact on both health and the economy.

What some European regions are now living already happened in Madrid some weeks ago. We are now flattening the curve thanks to a strategy based on massive testing, selective quarantines and increasingly deploying preventive measures following the lessons learned by experts during this pandemic.

I realize that this is not enough. We have to keep working hard until the Covid19 incidence is low and Madrid can recover its daily life. My commitment is that we will not rest until this happens.

Madrid region made more than 3 million tests since this pandemic started. We are currently doing 170,000 – 200,000 weekly tests, and we are being one of the most advanced regions in using antigen test, with more than 130,000 made during the last week.

Massive testing and rapid diagnostic are being one of the key factors in managing this second wave. We have multiplied our test capacity by 10, and we aim to keep on this way. We know that this is not enough to achieve our goals in terms of incidence and to be prepared for a new third wave.

That is why I am writing to you. We have been requesting the Spanish Government a legal framework that allows pharmacies capabilities for testing with no answer from them.



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Our experts establish that antigen tests can be performed in other healthcare centers, such as pharmacies or dental clinics because their professionals are skilled, they guarantee security and hygiene, and results can be communicated to Madrid Healthcare System.

Covid19 testing in pharmacies is already being used in European countries such as France, Portugal, and the United Kingdom, as well as in other consolidated healthcare systems, such as the United States, Australia, or Canada.

Currently, the Spanish Agency for Medicine and Health Products (AEMPS) does not allow us to use those centers. That is why I would consider useful if some European authority could validate this new way of testing, not only in Spain but also for the rest of European regions.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your time, wish the best for you and your team and make available for the European Commission Madrid Region in anything we can help.

Yours faithfully,

Isabel Díaz Ayuso
President of Madrid Region