



**European Affairs Committee
of the National Council of the Slovak Republic**

April 16, 2020

**Statement by the Chairmanship of the European Affairs Committee of the National
Council of the Slovak Republic**

The pandemic of the new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) poses an unprecedented threat to the European Union and its Member States, threatening the life, health and safety of citizens of all EU member-states. At the same time, it threatens the European economy and, ultimately, the integration project.

The only effective solution to the current crisis is through joint and targeted measures to combat the pandemic and mitigate its socio-economic consequences. Close cooperation between the Member States of the European Union, flexibility and above all, solidarity, which underpins the co-existence of the Member States, will be crucial.

While all EU countries, including Slovakia, have been affected by the pandemic, the crisis has struck some EU countries more than other. As we mitigate its consequences, it is essential to support those Member States, whose healthcare systems are most vulnerable and under the highest pressure.

We appreciate the concrete expressions of European solidarity between the Member States of the European Union, such as the treatment of patients from the other Member States who require intensive healthcare or cross-border supplies of medicaments and personal protective equipment. These expressions of solidarity make a significant contribution to restoring a sense of mutual belonging among European nations.

Given the above, we consider it essential that the Government of the Slovak Republic also helps those Member States of the European Union that need help the most, as they find themselves in an emergency and critical situation caused by the spread of the pandemic. In this context, we recommend that the Government of the Slovak Republic implement its planned aid delivery as promptly as possible, and that it also consider extending the offer to other countries, while ensuring that needs of Slovak citizens are looked after.

In this context, we also recommend the Government of the Slovak Republic cooperate with the European Commission and take advantage of the opportunity offered by the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism and its Emergency Response Coordination Centre, which plays a crucial role in civil protection in the European Union.

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