



*Courtesy Translation*

Dear Colleague,

the coronavirus pandemic and the huge number of deaths it has caused have placed our continent before the greatest challenge it has ever faced. This time our task is not so much to overcome the divisions between States or the dichotomy between one's own interests versus the goal of coexistence, or else the aggression of a player towards all the others. What is at stake today is the very survival of our national systems and even more so of our continental system first and foremost at a societal level, rather than in economic or political terms.

As members of national Parliaments, we have something that unites us: we represent all citizens irrespective of our political affiliations. Each of us represents everyone without distinction, comprehensively and, I trust, with full awareness: if we do not learn from so much sorrow, we will have wasted it, and that will be our greatest guilt tainting our lives, both as individuals and collectively.

The spread of the virus must have taught us that the next challenges facing humanity will not be national in character and cannot be overcome individually: if we are to fulfil the mandate that our citizens have given us, we must overcome the parochial and selfish attitudes that sometimes still condition the activity of governments and must join forces in the name and on behalf of those who have bestowed upon us this greatest of all responsibilities.

This global emergency offers us a great opportunity, perhaps the last in our lives, to give real substance to Article 12 of the TEU and build, all together, the "effective and regular inter-parliamentary cooperation within the Union" which is so often invoked as indispensable without being adequately practised.

This is the time to get to know each other, to engage with one another and talk together, work together, produce together rules and policies to be submitted to our respective Parliaments, so that we can try and lead our Nations towards a future based on joint constructive action and not on mere economic calculations, which cannot inspire a progressive momentum strong enough to underpin a prosperous future for all.



*Camera dei Deputati*

If the first decade of 2000 saw the end of ideologies and the second decade the failure of the financial system of the late twentieth century, then the third decade, which begins this year, must see us overcome those divisions dictated by political posturing which have no reason to exist now after the experience of COVID19.

Against this backdrop, aware of our duty to contribute to the reconstruction efforts, I would like to urge each one of us to be on the side of the peoples of Europe and to work together for their well-being, with the honesty and dignity inherent in our role as representatives of those who live and work every day in hopes of a better tomorrow.

Looking forward to meeting you in the near future, I would like to convey to you my hopes, my highest consideration and my warmest regards.

Marta Grande