



Brussels, 26.02.2021

Note for the attention of Ms Gertrud INGESTAD, Director-General, DG HR

**Subject: Request for 2-week teleworking from abroad before the Easter break**

Dear Mrs Ingestad,

First of all, thank you for announcing that a meeting will soon be called to discuss specifically teleworking. We had requested the opening of social dialogue on teleworking in a note addressed to you on 12 February 2021 and are glad that our request was accepted.

While looking forward to discussing with you the framework for teleworking in the post-pandemic environment, we are now addressing you to reiterate a request that we presented orally in the last information meeting on Coronavirus, held on Friday 12 February.

Namely, to allow staff to telework from abroad for two weeks around the Easter break. We had already requested and obtained such flexibility in summer 2020 and around the Christmas break, and the practice has shown that everything worked very smoothly, allowing both the maximum business continuity for the Commission and a better work-life balance for staff. This is especially true as we are now almost one year into the Covid-19 pandemic, and many specialists worldwide are warning against a mental health pandemic connected to lockdowns and restrictions in social and family life.

In the Coronavirus information meeting (12 January 2021) the issue of travelling from Belgium not being possible until 1 April was raised. However, the press reports that this travel ban could be lifted earlier. Additionally, travel from Belgium is still possible in a number of cases as set out by the authorities. Importantly, no travel restrictions are currently applied in Luxembourg and other Commission sites. These two weeks of teleworking might again help cover mandatory quarantine periods.

Therefore, we count on you to show once again that the Commission cares deeply for the mental health and well-being of its staff and to apply a level of flexibility already enjoyed by colleagues in other EU institutions.

Thank you for considering our request.

Kind regards,

Łukasz WARDYN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Łukasz WARDYN', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chair of Generation 2004

CC: SAKKERS Ewoud (HR), ROQUES Christian (HR)