

Brussels, 22 March 2021

The COVID crisis has highlighted the importance of sport and physical activity for well-being, both as an effective means of combating the deleterious effects of lockdowns on physical and mental health but also as a means of preventing infectious risks in a pandemic situation. In general, healthy people appear to have been less severely impacted by the pandemic.

In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the health of our citizens remains the first and utmost priority. But as underlined notably by the 2017 Tartu Call for a healthy lifestyle launched by the EU Commission, scientific evidence shows that lack of regular physical activity often leads to an unhealthy lifestyle and diseases, particularly later in life.

With this in mind, it is especially important during lockdown periods to offer opportunities, as it has been the case in some Member States, to practice sport and maintain physical activity, sometimes in an innovative setting.

In this context we, Ministers responsible for sport, reiterate our commitment to promote the role and value of sport and physical activity in terms of its contribution to the physical and mental health and well-being of citizens and in terms of prevention of chronic and infectious diseases, especially in crisis periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic and afterwards. Further efforts at local, national, regional and EU levels can be necessary to maintain sport's and physical activity's contribution to the physical and mental health of our citizens, especially children, in the current pandemic situation as well as in the context of exit and post-pandemic resumption strategies.

We welcome the willingness of the Commissioner Gabriel to have a follow-up to the successful Tartu Call, with a wider scope on "Healthy Lifestyles for All". It is essential to educate, especially (but not only) children and young adults, about the importance of having a healthy lifestyle and adequate physical activity to protect their health and be an actor of self-care and prevention during their entire life. This is why we call all relevant authorities, to find, during the current crisis, the right balance between preventing the spread of the virus and resuming and maintaining physical activities and safe sport, especially for young people, with the long-term objective to preserve physical and mental health and well-being.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Werner Kogler**  
Vice-Chancellor – Austria



**Dr. philol. Ilga Šuplinska**  
Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of  
Latvia

**Ms. Isabelle WEYKMANS**

Minister for Culture, Sports, Employment and Media  
(German-speaking Community)

*This signature binds the Flemish Community, French  
Community and German-speaking Community of Belgium  
Also on behalf of.*

**Ms. Valérie GLATIGNY**

Minister for Higher Education, Adult Education,  
University hospitals, Youth Welfare, Houses of Justice,  
Youth, Sport and the Promotion of Brussels (French  
Community)

**Mr. Ben WEYTS**

Vice minister-president responsible for Education, Sport,  
Animal welfare and the Flemish periphery (Flemish  
Community)

**Ms Jurgita Šiugždinienė**

Minister of Education, Science and Sport – **Lithuania**

**Mr Dan Kersch**

Minister for Sport – **Luxembourg**

**Mr Krasen Krlev**

Minister of Youth and Sports – **Bulgaria**

**Hon. Dr Clifton Grima**

Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Recreation and  
Voluntary Organisations – **Malta**

**Ms Nikolina Brnjac Ph.D.**

Minister of Tourism and Sport – **Croatia**

**Prof Piotr Gliński**

Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Culture, National  
Heritage and Sport – **Poland**

**Mr Prodromos Prodromou**

Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth – **Cyprus**

**Mr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues**

Minister of Education (in charge of Sport) – **Portugal**

**Ing. Robert Plaga Ph.D.**

Minister of Education, Youth and Sport – **Czech Republic**

**Mr Carol-Eduard Novák**

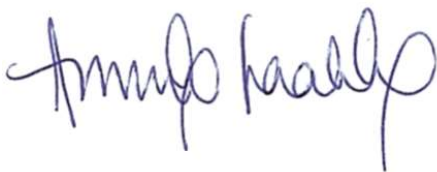
Minister for Youth and Sports – **Romania**



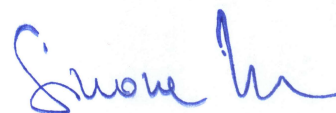
**Ms Anneli Ott**  
Minister of Culture – **Estonia**



**Mr Ivan Husár**  
State Secretary for Sport - **Slovakia**



**Ms Annika Saarikko**  
Minister of Science and Culture – **Finland**



**Ms Simona Kustec**  
Minister for Education, Youth, Science and Sport –  
**Slovenia**



**Roxana MARACINEANU**

**Ms Roxana Maracineanu**  
Minister delegate for Sports – **France**



*Irene Lozano Domingo*  
Spain

**Ms Irene Lozano**  
Secretary of State for Sport – **Spain**

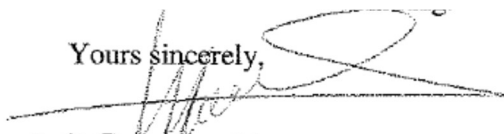


**Mr Stephan Mayer**  
Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of  
the Interior, Building and Community – **Germany**



**Ms Amanda Lind**  
Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility  
for sport – **Sweden**

Yours sincerely,



**Lefteris Avgenakis**  
**Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports**

**Mr Lefteris Avgenakis**  
Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport – **Greece**



**Ms Tamara van Ark**  
Minister for Medical Care and Sport – **The Netherlands**