**European lawmakers urge nations to fight COVID “together”**

A remarkable alliance of national parliamentarians from across the European Union, bridging left and right, north and south, east and west, has come together to call for European “solidarity” against COVID-19 and to warn of the risks to the EU from a failure to unite to meet challenges to both public health and to the economy.

The call by members of the German Bundestag, the Italian Chamber of Deputies and legislatures in 23 other member states was supported across the political spectrum, spanning traditional divisions over public spending and national sovereignty.

“If we stand in solidarity as Europeans, we will defeat the virus,” they write. “Together we all have the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus. Together, we can also overcome the economic challenges posed by this crisis.

“’Together’ is our most important watchword at the moment. Together we all have the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus, by taking responsibility for each other as citizens, by placing short-term restrictions on our daily lives … These restrictions also currently include closing borders within Europe. This might be a small building block in a range of measures aiming to reduce possible points of contact.

“And yet it would be a mistake to believe that nation states are able to meet global challenges successfully alone. The complete opposite is true: The virus knows no borders. Our response to the virus should likewise know no borders. If we stand in solidarity as Europeans, we will defeat the virus – together.”

The full text is available at http://insieme-together.eu/. ***Insieme*** is Italian for together. The call is published under the auspices of the **Mercator European Dialogue**, a forum established in the wake of the euro zone crisis to promote face-to-face dialogue among national lawmakers across the EU, especially on issues where countries are fiercely divided - such as economic governance, migration policy and border security.

The MED is a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in cooperation with counterpart think-tanks in Spain, Italy and Greece: the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, the Istituto Affari Internazionali and the **Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).** It is funded by Germany’s Mercator charitable institution and Belgium’s King Baudouin Foundation.

About *Insieme* initiative wrote in.gr and [thecaller.gr](https://thecaller.gr/politiki/koronaios-i-nantia-giannakopoyloy-synypografei-epistoli-ekklisi-eyropaion-voyleyton-).

More information on *Insieme* initiative are available[here](https://www.mercatoreuropeandialogue.org/stories/coronavirus-and-parliaments-of-europe/) και [here](https://www.mercat).