



València, 1 April 2020

Dear CoR Member, dear colleague and friend,

I contact you because the European Union faces decisive hours for its history and I believe that, from the regions that make up Europe, we cannot remain impassive in the face of the serious health, social and economic emergency that the Covid-19 pandemic is causing in most European regions, whether in Madrid or Lombardy, Île-de-France or North Rhine-Westphalia, Brussels or the North Region of Portugal.

On behalf of the Region of Valencia I represent, and for the five million inhabitants of this Spanish region, I want to claim responsibility for the well-being of our citizens in the 329 regions and local entities that we make up the European Committee of Regions. The regions are now on the front line of this health emergency and we will also be at the post-stage of socioeconomic reconstruction.

I would therefore like to convey to you the need for all the regions to press together for the European Union to intervene with an ambitious and extraordinary stimulus plan capable of refloating the losers that will this crisis cause.

We need a European Marshall Plan. A Marshall Plan that mobilizes all the necessary resources and instruments to guarantee social and territorial cohesion in our regions. A plan that allows us to face, with the required solidarity and solvency, the greatest emergency that our continent has experienced since the World War II. A plan that ensures the stability and prosperity of its citizens to prevent anyone from being left behind after this immense blow.

It is urgent that our peoples feel the encouragement and agile, strong and sensitive response of a united Europe, to the suffering and needs of its inhabitants.



The time has come for the European Union to answer a question: Are we a club with 27 markets or a large family of 446 million people going through its worst moment in 75 years? The future of the Union will depend on its response and also the fate of millions of Europeans who in these weeks are living with death, disease, pain and dark prospects for the future.

In face of all this, there is only one faithful position to the European essence: Don't be indifferent.

Those three words should suffice for Europe to activate a community Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of all the regions affected by the impact of Covid-19.

I therefore invite you, to urge the region you are representing, as well as all the European regions that make up the Union, to express our determined Europeanism before the European Committee of the Regions and request the promotion of a European Marshall Plan to help refloat the most damaged European economies by the consequences of Covid-19. In this way we will ensure the very survival of the European Union in the way we now know it.

Neither history nor the European peoples who are suffering the most from this situation would forgive us if we did something different. In less than two months, more than 20,000 people have died of coronavirus in the European Union, more than double the 9,387 white wooden crosses erected at the American Cemetery in Normandy, located opposite the French beach of Omaha that hosted the most famous landing of World War II. Unfortunately, the pandemic has not yet subsided.

Let us be aware of the magnitude of this tragedy, be up to the moment and fail neither our own conscience nor the European collective conscience.

Before I say goodbye, let me express my gratitude for your attention and let me share with you my hope that your region will join the request for a European Marshall Plan against Covid-19. I am convinced that, as the long history of our Old Continent teaches us, we will get ahead of this harsh situation.

Yours sincerely,

Ximo Puig