



The Prime Minister



Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Le Premier ministre



Brussels, Luxemburg, Riga, Tallinn, The Hague, Vilnius
22 June 2021

Dear President,
Dear Charles,

While the protection of public health was our overriding priority in our fight against Covid-19, some of the restrictive measures that were put in place have disproportionately hit border regions, impacting the fundamental principle of free movement. Given the human and economic importance of our border regions, their functioning is critical to the very fabric of our Union.

At the onset of our discussions on the lessons learned of the Covid-19 crisis, we call on including the specificities of border regions in our reflection. We need to ensure that we can better protect the interests of European citizens who regularly cross internal borders, especially at times of crisis. Therefore, Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands propose the introduction of a "cross-border test" in EU policy making, as described into more detail in the position paper attached to this letter.

We are looking forward to our discussions.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander De Croo

Prime Minister
of the Kingdom of Belgium

Kaja Kallas

Prime Minister
of the Republic of Estonia

Krišjānis Kariņš

Prime Minister
of the Republic of Latvia

Gitanas Nausėda

President
of the Republic of Lithuania

Xavier Bettel

Prime Minister
of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg

Mark Rutte

Prime Minister
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands