



## CIRCULAR LC #3 (2021)

To all European affiliates  
For information to: All staff and  
EPSU

6 April 2021

Dear affiliates,

The campaign for a TRIPS Waiver is making an impact. **We are now at a possible turning point and need to keep the pressure up.** I write to ask for your support.

### **The situation**

After the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi made a written request to support the waiver and more than 60 US lawmakers wrote to the White House, there are reports that [President Biden is considering approving the waiver](#).

The European Trade Union Confederation has now sent a [letter to the European Commission](#) asking them to approve the waiver and [ETUC General Secretary Luca Visentini raised the same issue](#) last week on 24 March at the high-level meeting of leaders in the EU and EU Institutions, the Tripartite Social Summit.

At the ILO Governing Body, on 27 March, the Workers Group called on governments to immediately support the waiver and oppose vaccine nationalism, and when the [PSI General Secretary, Rosa Pavanelli, addressed the Health Working Group of the G20](#), representing the global labour movement, she called on the G20 to support the waiver.

The matter is becoming urgent not just for the billions of people in the global south, who are denied the right to timely vaccine protection because some national leaders prioritise private pharma profits but is now clearly a threat to everyone. According to epidemiologists, persistent low vaccine coverage in any countries make it [more likely for vaccine-resistant mutations to appear, rendering the vaccination campaigns that are currently underway ineffective](#).

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern recently said "No countries are safe until all countries are safe." Without fast global vaccine coverage highly contagious variants are threatening additional surges. Hindrances to our global ability to scale up vaccine production as well as to shift production to better vaccines quickly, need to be removed, and approving the TRIPS waiver is a key step in this direction.

### **Taking action**

The timeline of discussions at the WTO has been moved forward by a month and **the proposal will be considered again by the WTO General Council in early May (instead of early June). There is**

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**urgency to pressure the EC to change its stand**, including by putting pressure on national government, through national parliaments.

Allies in civil society are collecting signatures of national MP and MEP on [an open letter urging the European Union and its member states to support a TRIPS Waiver](#) (*available in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian*). It is important to act now.

Please [share this letter](#) with your MPs and invite them to sign on by writing to **tripswaiverletter@gmail.com**.

[Find out more on our website](#) and let us know if there is any other support we can provide. You can see our previous update with more points for action [here](#).

In Solidarity

Rosa Pavanelli  
PSI General Secretary