

Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis,
Trade, European Commission

Commissioner Stella Kyriakides,
Health and Food Safety

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Dear Commissioner Dombrovskis,
Dear Commissioner Kyriakides

We are writing to you to express our concern about the impact of the COVID pandemic on Tunisia. A statement from the health federation there (member of our sister organisation PSI) underlines the extent to which health workers have been infected in died and the shortage of oxygen equipment and intensive care beds. We are aware of the recent support given to the country (50,400 vaccines from Latvia) and other measures to help the country through the crisis. However, with nearly 550,000 cases, total deaths already over 17600 and a double vaccination rate of less than 7%, Tunisia continues to be in need of aid.

We would urge the European Commission to extend further help to the country and please let us know if you have plans to do so. We also take this opportunity to make a further call for the European Union to support the call for the TRIPS waiver that is crucial to ensure vaccine production and supply reaches countries most in need. The European Parliament, European and international trade unions, public health advocates and social movements the world over have asked for EU leadership. We need to step up the fight against Sars-COV-2 and COVID19. The distribution of vaccines is not enough.

Yours sincerely



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary