



Krzysztof Jurgiel
Member of the European Parliament

Białystok, 25 March 2020

David Maria Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Regarding: Suspension of the implementation of the European Green Deal

Honourable President,

The spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus is the most serious epidemic crisis in Europe in decades. In recent decades of increasing globalisation and disappearing internal borders, everything we have grown accustomed to cannot be longer taken for granted. Owing to hundreds of victims and thousands of infected people, the authorities of particular countries are forced to take radical steps to protect and save their citizens.

Every day, European governments have to make difficult decisions, applying the principle of "the lesser evil". This emergency situation justifies limiting personal freedoms, suspending free market mechanisms and freedom of establishment. Further governments suspend, in the name of responsibility for human life and health, the rules and compromises they had made before – in a much different reality.

The European Union must also act this way. Therefore, I ask for an urgent initiative to review the priorities of climate policy, including the reduction of CO2 emissions. Not because they do not serve a good purpose, but because we have to choose the most significant of the many important problems we face. In accordance with the Anglo-Saxon principle: *First things first*.

For a crisis of unforeseen scale awaits us. It is unreasonable and irresponsible to introduce the European Green Deal now, when the effects of the pandemic are not yet known. It is already clear that the health, social, economic and even civilisational effects of the coronavirus will have to be mitigated for months or even – years.

The ongoing fight against the coronavirus is a huge effort for the health sector, which is mobilising all its forces to stop the pandemic. The imminent collapse of many businesses, particularly in the service sector, will have far-reaching social consequences, especially for those who do not enjoy full employment protection and do not have a right to social allowances. As a result of the pandemic, whole industries will need strong investment incentives from public authorities. The current fight against the virus, which already burdens economies and governments, is only a prelude to the costs that countries and societies will have to bear. This may mean that there will be no money for investment. For this reason, a re-examination of the Green Deal is necessary, and until then the strategy should be suspended. After all, it is difficult to imagine the competitiveness of the economies of many European countries, including Poland, under circumstances of rapidly rising energy prices. This would mean nullifying many years of work on convergence measures, including those financed by Cohesion Fund resources.

The Green Deal is supposed to cost hundreds of billions of euros. The economic slowdown in Member States as well as the problems faced by many economic sectors will make it necessary to implement aid packages to avoid a spiral of debt, a wave of company bankruptcies and a rise of unemployment. Under these conditions, the EU's priority will be economic and social policy measures.

In view of the above, I ask you to include in the agenda of the European Parliament a debate on the measures that will best protect the interests of our citizens and businesses from the effects of the coronavirus, **suspending the current timetable for implementation of the European Green Deal.**

Krzysztof Jurgiel

Member of the European Parliament

For the attention of: Mr Ryszard Legutko, Co-Chair of the ECR Group