

Reflection of the Position Paper of Greece and Spain on the Issue:

Covid-19: How should the EU react in the future pandemics



Agenda

1. Common Objectives of Greece and Spain
2. Solutions proposed in the Position Paper
3. Evaluation of the Position Paper
4. Commission's position on the Position Paper
5. Proposed Future steps

Common Objectives by Greece and Spain



Fostering tourism and **attracting visitors**: restarting the economy as fast as possible

- **tourism**, the most affected sector = 20% of Greek & 12% of Spanish GDP
- enormous impact of **movement restriction** on the way of living
- spillover effects of **strict lockdown measures** (i.a. hospitality industry)

Position against Digital Green Certificates because:

- Vaccinated people can **transmit the infection** to the non-vaccinated ones
- **Low vaccination rates** in the EU → UK/US tourists freer than locals?
- Low vaccination rates outside the EU → tourists from most countries would be denied entry?



Solutions proposed in the Position Paper

1. Receiving **EU funding** to improve **medical infrastructure** and to foster **employment opportunities**
2. Implementation of special **insurance policies** which cover the upcoming virus risks
3. Better regulations for border closures → softer measures

Evaluation of the Position Paper



Upsides

1. **Empirical evidence** provided that both economies are highly dependent on tourism revenue
2. The Commission agrees to the importance of solidarity in times of crisis, thus to help the **most affected** member states
3. Remarks the necessity for a more efficient **vaccination process**

Drawbacks

1. **No differentiation** between the European Union and Europe
2. Questionability of the proposed **insurance scheme**: medical staff is the limit, money is not
3. Practical framework for the **vaccination passports**: this Commission proposed it as a **mid-term measure**, not a long-term one



Commission's Position regarding the presented Position

1. believes we can reach a compromise
2. recognizes areas of concern, most importantly economic dependency on tourism
3. sees the need for mid-term and long term solutions with regard to future pandemics

Critical Issue: Vaccination Passport



Need for clarification

- Vaccine types: the Commission insists on **EMA approval**
 - *Chilean experience: low efficacy of Sinovac vaccine*
 - *UAE data: Sinopharm vaccine prevents deaths but not infections*
 - *Doubts about the production process of Gamaleya vaccine (Sputnik V)*
- Unapproved manufacturers: especially Serum Institute of India
Tourists can arrive immunised by **licence-produced vaccines**
- **Insurance scheme acceptable** if healthcare cooperation deepened
e. g. curing visitors of Spain in France if Spanish system overwhelmed
revenue distribution based on number of patients

THANK YOU!