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Let's stand up to anti-vaccination disinformation. Together!

The coronavirus pandemic has caused devastating health, social and economic impacts to our continent. Whether it is the businesses being forced to close, families being kept apart or the pain of losing our loved ones. Now, as we look towards the New Year, governments are putting plans in place to roll out coronavirus vaccines that offer the possibility of returning to a more normal life.

Vaccination is the primary prevention of disease and one of the most cost-effective public health measures available. It is thanks to widespread vaccination that smallpox has been eradicated, Europe made polio-free, and many other diseases almost eliminated.

However, as our public health experts prepare for the coronavirus vaccines, they face another major pandemic: the pandemic of disinformation. Sophisticated anti-vaccination campaigns rooted in anti-scientific arguments and emotive language seek to manipulate our citizens' concerns and undo decades of medical progress. In 2019, the World Health Organisation listed vaccine hesitancy among the top 10 threats to public health.

As political leaders, we owe it to our scientists and researchers to stand up to the pandemic of disinformation that seeks to undermine their efforts and cast doubt among the population. The European People's Party will lead in this fight in defence of science and evidence-based policy.

We must correct and answer the queries and worries of our citizens, of our people; of those who voted for us and those who did not. We must ensure they receive the correct information: that vaccines are a safe and effective way of protecting our populations, and our one and only instrument to stop the deadly virus.

The coronavirus vaccines are an example of what can be achieved when Europe works together and stands united. They are a symbol of ambition, hope and dedication, the characteristics that have always underpinned the European Union.

Let us be to the fore in this fight and share a message of European hope and unity.

The Youth of the European People's Party

Lídia Pereira

President of YEPP

Donald Tusk

President of EPP

Manfred Weber

Chairman of the EPP Group in the
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