



ELI
EUROPEAN
LAW
INSTITUTE

Schottenring 16 | 1010 Vienna | Austria
secretariat@europeanlawinstitute.eu
www.europeanlawinstitute.eu

P +43-1-4277-221-01
F +43-1-4277-9221

Vienna, 26 May 2020

Dear Mr Walter

As President and Vice-Presidents of the European Law Institute (ELI), an entirely independent non-profit organisation established to provide practical guidance in relation to European legal development, we write to you to draw your attention to the **ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis**, which address some of the most important legal issues arising in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 emergency forced European governments to adopt unprecedented measures in a bid to protect the life and health of individuals as well as to limit the negative consequences for the economy. Although these measures inevitably restrict the fundamental rights of citizens in ways that can be justified only in these extraordinary circumstances, it is of utmost importance that they are enforced within the framework of established democratic principles, the international legal order and the rule of law.

With this in mind, the ELI Executive Committee, in consultation with ELI's Senate and Council and with input from its Members, drafted the ELI Principles for the COVID-19 Crisis. In drafting the above, due consideration was given to what has been published by other bodies. The Principles, which are addressed to European States and are intended to guide them, EU institutions and other bodies with the object of ensuring that everything that is done accords with the rule of law and democratic values, deal more specifically with the following issues: (1) fundamental values, principles and freedoms; (2) non-discrimination; (3) democracy; (4) lawmaking; (5) justice system; (6) privacy and data protection; (7) borders and freedom of movement; (8) free movement of goods and services; (9) employment and the economy; (10) continuity of relationships at a distance; (11) education; (12) moratorium on regular payments; (13) force majeure and hardship; (14) exemption from liability for simple negligence and (15) return to normality.

We trust that the Principles, which are available for free download [here](#), will offer guidance to the Data Protection Commissioner of the Council of Europe on how to steer through these unprecedented times. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely

Christiane Wendehorst
ELI President

Lord John Thomas
ELI Vice-President

Pascal Pichonnaz
ELI Vice-President