



June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

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## ENSURING AN ADEQUATE RECOVERY IN ISLANDS

In its June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 letter addressed to Mrs Ursula Von Der Leyen - President of the European Commission, Mr David Maria Sassoli - President of the European Parliament and Mr Charles Michel - President of the European Council, the Network of Insular Chambers of the European Union-INSULEUR welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a recovery package to "repair and prepare for the next generation" in response to the current crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

INSULEUR also reiterates that in these difficult times, Europe's islands have suffered some of the major economic and social setbacks and therefore calls on Europe's leaders to channel the recovery funds in such a manner as to ensure the sustainability and the diversification of islands' devastated economies.

INSULEUR furthermore urges for the implementation of a specific AND permanent EU and state aid regime for islands where insularity would be recognized as a permanent feature affecting negatively, directly and indirectly islands' economies in order to reinforce their long-term competitiveness and ensure their sustainable development at pari passu with the mainland.

Joseph Borg, President of INSULEUR, highlighted that "One-size-fits-all solutions will have negative or even catastrophic consequences for our Islands". INSULEUR will continue to monitor the situation, and will never cease to voice the difficulties and concerns of the island populations, if these are not urgently addressed.