Taiwan and Europe

Cooperation and assistance to combat COVID-19

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<th>Country/entity</th>
<th>Cooperation/assistance</th>
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<td>The European Union and its member states; the United Kingdom</td>
<td>Donations of medical personal protective equipment and supplies</td>
<td>1. Since April 1, 2020, Taiwan has donated humanitarian aid on four occasions to the European Union and European nations for medical personnel in the areas most severely impacted by COVID-19. The donated medical supplies included over 10 million masks as well as protective gowns, forehead thermometers, infrared thermal imaging cameras, ventilators, and isolation gowns. 2. Taiwanese Catholic organizations, NGOs, and industry associations have actively donated materials to Europe. For instance, Catholic organizations in Taiwan have twice donated antipandemic supplies to the Holy See’s representative office in Taipei which, through MOFA,</td>
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transferred them to Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office Director Davide Giglio. MOFA has also collaborated with nongovernmental organizations and private enterprises to donate 25 ventilators, face shields, and other supplies to hospitals across the Czech Republic. These actions demonstrate the extent to which the Taiwan government and private sector are willing to contribute to help the world.

1. Taiwan and the European Union are committed to continuing cooperation on antipandemic technology and supply chains, including such activities as a videoconference held among Taiwan’s Academia Sinica and National Health Research Institutes and the European Commission’s COVID-19 task force to discuss cooperation on research and development of rapid test kits, vaccines, and medicines.

2. The Czech Republic was the first
European Union member to release a joint statement with Taiwan on COVID-19 partnership. Under this framework, Taiwan and the Czech Republic have exchanged best practices; implemented antipandemic measures; collaborated on the development and production of rapid test kits, vaccines, and medicines; and conducted exchanges on related medical supplies and equipment. This has helped form a foundation for antipandemic medical cooperation across the board.

Antipandemic experience sharing

On June 19, President Tsai Ing-wen addressed the Copenhagen Democracy Summit by video at the invitation of the Alliance of Democracies, sharing Taiwan’s antipandemic achievements and democratic experience. Former Vice President Chen Chien-jen was also invited by the Chair of the UK House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee Jeremy Hunt MP to virtually take part in a hearing on June
3, 2020, so as to talk about Taiwan’s experience and expertise in combating COVID-19. It was the first time former Taiwan’s Vice President was invited to such an event. On September 9, François Chih-chung Wu, Taiwan’s Representative to France, was invited to a special Senate committee session to share Taiwan’s experience in containing the pandemic. It marked the first time Taiwan’s Representative to France attended a session of the French Senate. In sum, Taiwan has held nearly 50 videoconferences with over 10 European countries to exchange antipandemic experiences.

※ Note: For information regarding Taiwan government officials who participated in videoconferences and interviews, refer to the “Videoconferences and interviews section” of the “MOFA Multimedia and social media” page on the official MOFA website.