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# **The Chinese and European Ambassadors on the COVID-19 Virus Situation in China**

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## **The Chinese and European Ambassadors on the COVID-19 Virus Situation in China**

Collected by MA Junchi<sup>1</sup>

This report shows the opinions of Chinese Ambassadors to European countries and European Ambassadors to China on the COVID-19 virus situation. The materials are collected and excerpted from their public speeches, interviews, articles, letters and video clips, updated until February 29, 2020. Their opinions not only reflect the attitude of their governments and states, but also are more exposed to the country where they are appointed to. Therefore, their words are fundamental to the potential China-Europe cooperation to work together against the virus.

However, due to the lack of materials in English in some cases, the words of some ambassadors are translated from Chinese into English by Ma Junchi himself, and due to the limited time, this report may not include all the speeches by Chinese and European ambassadors.

### **1. The opinions of the Chinese Ambassadors to European countries**

The Chinese ambassadors to European countries offer a comprehensive picture about the situation and measures taken in China against virus. The Chinese ambassadors mainly elaborate on the following aspects: active cooperation with international community, the rapid and effective measures taken by China, the solidarity of Chinese people, the potential effect on Chinese economy and condemnation of the overreaction.

#### **(1) China's active cooperation with international community**

**H.E. Cao Zhongming, the Ambassador to Belgium:** China's efforts have been fully recognized by the World Health Organization and the international community. Acting in an open, transparent and responsible manner, China has maintained sound communication and coordination with Belgium and other international partners.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Chen Bo, the Ambassador to Serbia:** Since the outbreak, the Chinese government has released information in a timely, open, transparent and responsible manner, and shared the virus gene sequence and other information with the WHO and other countries, including Serbia, as soon as possible. It is precisely because of the stringent measures taken by China that the number of infection cases outside China is less than 1% of the total number of cases. The WHO highly values China's decisive measures to fight the epidemic, and is confident in the Chinese government's ability to prevent and control the epidemic. China is fully responsible for fighting the epidemic, not only for China, but also for the health of people around the world.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MA Junchi, PhD Candidate, Assistant Researcher, Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

<sup>2</sup> <http://be.chineseembassy.org/eng/sghd/t1743311.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://rs.china-embassy.org/chn/sgxx/sghd/t1742150.htm>

**H.E. Chen Li, the Ambassador to Finland:** As Ambassador, I have always been thinking of what we should do and what we can do. Before the confirmed case, our embassy has already followed the outbreak closely, even during the Chinese New Year holidays. My colleagues and I have met our Finnish counterparts from different Ministries and Departments. We are trying our best to work with Finland to exchange information and provide assistance if needed. Our counsels are getting in touch with the Chinese community and travelers in Finland on a daily basis, keeping them aware of emergency preparedness.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Dong Xiaojun, the Ambassador to Bulgaria:** The Chinese government attaches great importance to the life safety and physical health of foreigners in China, especially citizens of all countries in Wuhan, Hubei, and actively takes effective measures to resolve their reasonable concerns and requirements in a timely manner. The relevant departments of Hubei Province have opened a 24-hour consultation service hotline (027-87122256) for foreigners, foreign students and foreign tourism teams in Hubei. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China has set up a coordination mechanism to deal with epidemic prevention matters for diplomats and foreign nationals in China. <sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Duan Jielong, the Ambassador to Hungary:** China is cooperating with the WHO and scientific researchers in many countries to identify the source and transmission of the virus, following closely the mutation of the virus, implementing the open sharing of relevant data and case information, and jointly studying the strategies and measures of prevention and control. The development of medicine and vaccines is also in full swing. <sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Gui Congyou, the Ambassador to Sweden:** China has always maintained close communication and cooperation with the world's major CDCs and relevant countries, including the EU CDC, in accordance with the principle of openness and transparency. The epidemic is not only a challenge to China's public health security, but also a challenge to international public health security. We hope that countries will strengthen solidarity, follow WHO recommendations, avoid overreactions, maintain normal personnel and trade exchanges, and jointly defeat the epidemic.<sup>4</sup>

**H.E. He Xiangdong, the Ambassador to Ireland:** China has strengthened cooperation with WHO and other countries in an open, transparent, and responsible manner, including notifying WHO of the epidemic situation, sharing gene sequence information, and actively responding to concerns of all parties. WHO and the international community highly value China's relevant initiatives.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Jin Zhijian, the Ambassador to Iceland:** In the long course of history, the mankind has endured many difficulties but always managed to forge ahead. In these challenging times, we need more calm than panic, more standing together rather than seeking benefits at the expense of others. I believe that with the understanding and support of the international community, the Chinese government and people have full

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<sup>1</sup> <http://fi.chineseembassy.org/chn/xwdt/t1738308.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://bg.chineseembassy.org/chn/dssghd/t1741670.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://hu.chineseembassy.org/chn/sgxxxyl/sgxwxy1/t1744932.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.chinaembassy.se/chn/sgxw/t1747756.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ie.chineseembassy.org/chn/sggg/t1749863.htm>

confidence and strong capability in winning this battle as soon as possible.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Zhou Ding, the Ambassador to Albania:** China has made every effort to prevent and control the spread of the epidemic and has also made important contributions to global epidemic prevention. After the outbreak, China carried out international cooperation to notify the WHO as soon as possible, and quickly share information about gene sequences. In the next stage, China will continue to strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation with WHO and other countries, accelerate the development of vaccines and treatment methods, work together to prevent and control the epidemic, and maintain global health and safety.<sup>2</sup>

## **(2) The rapid and effective measures taken by China**

**H.E. Cai Run, the Ambassador to Portugal:** An all-round, multi-level prevention and control system has been established, and all work is carried out in an open, transparent, scientific, and orderly manner. Experts started disease tracing timely, and prepared the diagnosis and treatment plan. Nearly 70 medical teams, more than 8,300 medical personnel have been dispatched from all over the country to Hubei Province. Provinces and municipalities initiated first-level alert to public health emergencies.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Feng Tie, the Ambassador to Denmark:** The virus is a previously unknown virus. At the beginning of the outbreak, medical judgment took time, and government decision-making also took time. Wuhan is a very large city with a population of 11 million, two times larger than the population of Denmark. Declaring a public health emergency in such a city is a difficult decision, especially to avoid panic and prevent the epidemic from spreading more widely. The Chinese government puts people's lives first, and has taken prompt and effective measures to devote all its efforts to fighting the epidemic. Of course, we can do better. After any disaster, people will summarize and reflect on it, and provide a reference for similar situations in the future.<sup>4</sup>

**H.E. Ji Ping, the Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The low mortality rate is mainly due to China's decisive, effective, orderly, and scientific prevention and control measures. We have initially developed a viral nucleic acid kit for detection in only 3 days. In just 10 days, we have completed the Huo Shen Shan Hospital with a building area of 33,900 square meters to treat patients. This is "China Speed" and is also the source of our confidence in winning the war.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Li Chao, the Ambassador to Estonia:** Since the outbreak of the nCoV epidemic, prevention and control measures have always been the top priority of the Chinese government. Some most comprehensive and rigorous prevention and control measures have been taken, of which, many have been well beyond the standards of the International Health Regulations (2005). These efforts are fully recognized and highly

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<sup>1</sup> <http://is.chineseembassy.org/eng/zbqx/t1742370.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://al.chineseembassy.org/chn/zagx/zajw/t1739728.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://pt.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1742035.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://dk.china-embassy.org/chn/zdjl/t1743352.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://ba.chineseembassy.org/chn/sgxx/sghd/t1743442.htm>

commended by the WHO and many countries. <sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Liang Jianquan, the Ambassador to Latvia:** After the outbreak, especially after Wuhan adopting more stringent prevention and control measures, the Chinese government established a special coordination mechanism to do everything possible to increase the supply of daily necessities, coordinate the green channels for food, vegetables, medical supplies and other essential items. Other provinces and cities, as well as a large number of volunteers and donors, have greatly assisted the people of Hubei to overcome the difficulties.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Xu Hong, the Ambassador to Netherland:** The first measure is to race against the disease and improve the diagnosis and treatment methods as soon as possible. The genetic sequence was first time detected and published to the public. The test reagents were quickly developed. The diagnosis and treatment solutions have been updated six times in one month. Three specific drugs have been put into clinical experiments and the use of recovered patients' plasma to treat critically ill patients has been promoted. In terms of vaccine development, five technical approaches are moving forward simultaneously, and clinical trials application will be submitted in late April.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Zhang Jianmin, the Ambassador to Czech Republic:** Confidence is based on solid efforts. The campaign against the virus launched by the Chinese government is unprecedented in both scope and intensity. The entire nation has been mobilized. President Xi Jinping has convened top-level meetings to plan unified nationwide efforts. Premier Li Keqiang has visited the epicenter. A 1,000-bed special hospital, built in 10 days, is already admitting patients and another one with 1,500 beds will be ready in a couple of days. Other cities are sending medical professionals and supplies to support Wuhan. <sup>4</sup>

**H.E. Zhang Ming, Head of the Chinese Mission to the European Union:** Openness and transparency are the most powerful weapons against the epidemic. Since the outbreak, the number of cases has been reported on a daily basis and the reporting is mandatory even for localities where no cases appear. And there are daily media briefings from the central and local governments. The central government is stepping up supervision and asking the public to provide clues about under-reporting and cover-ups. Those involved in such behavior shall be held accountable.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Zhang Qiyue, the Ambassador to Greece:** Thanks to the arduous efforts of the Chinese government and people, the prevention and control work has achieved positive results, and the epidemic situation has turned into positive changes. This is a critical stage of the epidemic prevention and control. The Chinese government and people will continue to do a good job. China has strong mobilization capabilities, rich experience in responding to public health incidents, and the full support of friendly countries such as Greece. We are fully confident and capable of winning the battle against epidemic.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ee.chineseembassy.org/eng/dssghd/t1747639.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://lv.china-embassy.org/chn/xwdt/t1742948.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://nl.chineseembassy.org/eng/xwdt/t1749819.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://cz.chineseembassy.org/chn/zxdt/t1742852.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.chinamission.be/eng/mh/t1746645.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://gr.chineseembassy.org/chn/zxhd/t1745079.htm>

### **(3) The solidarity of Chinese people**

**H.E. Li Junhua, the Ambassador to Italy:** These measures taken by the Chinese government are designed to protect the health and lives of the people. I am very confident to say that the vast majority of Chinese sincerely understand, agree and support. Indeed, when we took these measures, it caused some inconvenience to the normal lives of some people. But we all know that we need to deal with it under such a extreme situation.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Shen Zhifei, the Ambassador to Lithuania:** Nearly 20,000 medical staff across the country took the initiative to ask for going to the front line to treat patients; tens of thousands of builders fought day and night to build and rebuild many hospitals. Enterprises around the world are working hard to produce medical supplies, and express delivery companies have opened up "green channels" to give priority to ensuring that supplies of protective supplies and living materials are continuously shipped to areas under severe epidemics.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Xu Erwen, the Ambassador to Croatia:** the Chinese government has quickly established a country-wide inter-agency working group system, led by Prime Minister Li Keqiang . Across the country, the preventative and control apparatus is fully mobilized, deployed and strengthened. Within a very short time, China has put in place a multi-level prevention and control system and has taken the most comprehensive and rigorous protection measures to cover the entire country.<sup>3</sup>

### **(4) Condemnation of the overreaction**

**H.E. Geng Wenbing, the Ambassador to Switzerland:** The leak of the virus from a laboratory is a classic conspiracy theory. So far, experts around the world are exploring the source of the epidemic. It is almost certain that the virus originated from some wild animal. This virus is called "new coronavirus" because it is an unknown new virus, not an "old virus" in the laboratory. China implements the strictest management of virus laboratories, and "leakage" is purely smearing and rumor.<sup>4</sup>

**H.E. Huang Xingyuan, the Ambassador to Cyprus:** Some Western media in the United States and European countries have started to use the epidemic as a tool to discredit China. Under normal circumstances, when a country is responding to an epidemic, the international community should lend a helping hand, and China's active response to the epidemic has been blamed and attacked for no reason. I can only say that some forces in the United States and the Europe have no intention of caring for the well-being of the Chinese people, but have pursued "double standards" without shame, and have tried their best to contain China. We do not want to see "consumption" of epidemics, making rumors,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://it.china-embassy.org/chn/sbdt/t1747705.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://lt.china-embassy.org/chn/sgxw/t1746308.htm>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.telegram.hr/price/kineska-ambasadorica-na-telegramu-govori-o-posljedicama-koronavirusa-diskriminaciji-i-milijunima-koje-ulazu-da-ga-zaustave/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://ch.chineseembassy.org/chn/dssghd/t1748390.htm>

slandering China and other acts that lack basic common sense and morality. <sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Liu Guangyuan, the Ambassador to Poland:** It is regrettable that some countries still ignore the recommendations of the WHO and insist on taking restrictive measures to China. They are disrupting the normal flow of people and goods, and spreading panic. This extreme approach is neither reasonable. Many insightful people in the United States believe that restrictive measures are obviously overreactions, which will only have an adverse effect on the control of the epidemic, make it harder for resources to reach the outbreak areas, and have a negative impact on the global economy.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Wang Shunqing, the Ambassador to Slovenia:** China's efforts are not only to protect the health of its own people, but also to safeguard the health of the people of the world. The WHO highly values China's work in fighting the epidemic and is confident in China's ability to control the epidemic. It is hoped that the Sloven side will adhere to objectiveness and rationality, respect the professional recommendations of WHO, and support the Chinese government and people's efforts to fight the epidemic.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Wu Ken, the Ambassador to Germany:** In the face of unknown viruses, panic and rumors are often more terrifying than the outbreak itself. After scientific research and evaluation, WHO has called on countries not to place excessive restrictions on international travel and trade. Disease knows no borders. We are in an era of globalization in which the destinies of the nations are linked and shared. I hope that all parties can take an objective and rational view of the epidemic prevention and control work, and work together to address this global challenge.<sup>4</sup>

##### **(5) The potential effect on Chinese economy.**

**H.E. Liu Xiaoming, the Ambassador to UK:** in an age of economic globalization, countries of the world find themselves invariably associated with one another and sharing the same destiny. China is the second largest economy in the world and an indispensable link in the global industrial chain. While mobilizing all forces within the country to combat the epidemic, China is also making the utmost efforts to resume normal economic activities, and remain committed to opening up and deepen international cooperation. This is China's most important contribution to the world economy at this critical moment.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Lu Shaye, the Ambassador to France:** The epidemic did have an impact on China's economy, but the impact was temporary. On the premise of ensuring that the epidemic prevention and control is in place, the Chinese government will coordinate and promote the resumption of work and production, provide a strong material guarantee for the epidemic prevention and control, and maintain economic and social order. The government instructs enterprises to avoid staff gathering through rotation and other methods while ensuring productivity, and send contact person to large-scale enterprises to guide epidemic

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<sup>1</sup> <http://cy.china-embassy.org/chn/sghd/t1740079.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://pl.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1743048.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://si.chineseembassy.org/chn/xwdt/t1740252.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://de.chineseembassy.org/chn/sgyw/t1748064.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/ambassador/t1750785.htm>



prevention work, assist in solving equipment, manpower, and capital shortages, ensure the supply of raw materials and key parts, and ensure the normal operation of the industrial chain. China's economic growth may slow in the first quarter, but China's economy is resilient and has plenty of room for policy. It is believed that after the epidemic, as consumption rebounds, we will be able to achieve this year's economic growth target.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Xu Erwen, the Ambassador to Croatia:** in China, domestic companies are also making every effort to maintain and restore industrial production, and are doing their utmost to restore and maintain the supply chain to fulfill all international contracts and orders as soon as possible. The epidemic is currently having the biggest negative impact on service industries and services such as transportation, culture, tourism, hospitality and hospitality, as well as the film and television programs and the entertainment industry. I would like to point out that this is a temporary impact in the short term and will not change the long-term sound foundations of the Chinese economy.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Yi Xianliang, the Ambassador to Norway:** Despite the SARS epidemic in 2003, China's economy still achieved the expected growth in that year. As the world's second largest economy, China's economy is now more resilient. We are confident to minimize the impact of the epidemic on the economy and maintain a sound economic growth.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. The opinions of the European Ambassadors to China

There are 18 European ambassadors in China who have delivered their support to China in the name of both his or her country and his or her own. All of them expressed sincere sympathy for Chinese people and great respect to the Chinese medical staff, and also have solid confidence in China's fight against the epidemic at the same time.

**H.E. Alenka Suhadolnik, the Slovenian Ambassador:** on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, I express my sincere sympathy to all those who have lost their loved ones during the corona virus outbreak, bringing such distress to People's Republic of China.<sup>4</sup>

**H.E. Basil Vasilica Constantinescu, the Romanian Ambassador:** I express firm support and sympathy to the Chinese government and people, China has taken very positive measures to stop the spread of the new coronavirus, and I believe China will surely win the fight against the epidemic. The Romanian people have been always standing with the Chinese people.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://fr.chineseembassy.org/chn/ttxw/t1749407.htm>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.telegram.hr/price/kineska-ambasadorica-na-telegramu-govori-o-posljedicama-koronavirusa-diskriminaciji-i-milijunima-koje-ulazu-da-ga-zaustave/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://no.chineseembassy.org/chn/zjsg/sgxw/t1743492.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://go2slovenia.cn/newsdetail.shtml?54847>

<sup>5</sup>

[https://mbd.baidu.com/newspage/data/landingsuper?context=%7B%22nid%22%3A%22news\\_9901524377712294502%22%7D&n\\_type=1&p\\_from=3](https://mbd.baidu.com/newspage/data/landingsuper?context=%7B%22nid%22%3A%22news_9901524377712294502%22%7D&n_type=1&p_from=3)

**H.E. Bernardino Regazzoni, the Swiss Ambassador:** I commend extraordinary effort put in place by the Chinese government to fight the virus and the professionalism and commitment of the medical staffs on the ground. Hospital equipment is under way from Switzerland and will be delivered soon. Swiss private sector is mobilized to providing medical material and sharing knowledge to fight the epidemic.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Clemens von Goetze, the German Ambassador:** We are full of admiration for the medical staff and many others who have exerted great efforts to protect the safety and health of the people and help them quickly return to normal life. In these difficult days, Germany and China are connected.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Dame Barbara Woodward, the British Ambassador:** I am sure you like me, you won't anticipate the start of the year of the rat to be quite so challenging. But it is been a privilege for me to remain in Beijing and to witness in the first hand the fortitude and resilience of the Chinese people.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Dario Mihelin, the Croatian Ambassador:** we are confident at all the main measures China is undertaking to control the serious contagion will bear fruit, and the situation will soon return to normal<sup>4</sup>.

**H.E. Eoin O'Leary, the Irish Ambassador:** I express solidarity with Chinese people and government at this time of challenge.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Friedrich Stift, the Austrian Ambassador:** we pay high tribute to the medical staffs fighting in Wuhan and other regions. They have made unimaginable contributions to helping others. I believe China can quickly stop and overcome the epidemic. Austria is willing to work together for this.<sup>6</sup>

**H.E. Georgios Iliopoulos, the Greek Ambassador:** Greece stands together with the whole world and China in the fight against the novel coronavirus. The outbreak of the disease is a matter of global concern that requires deepening of international cooperation on all fronts in order to mitigate the consequences of the outbreak, limit its spread and safeguard public health. China's response against this challenge is decisive, and the Embassy of Greece trusts that our common efforts will prove decisive in winning this battle against the disease, the soonest possible. Our hearts and minds are with the Chinese people, especially those most severely affected in the Hubei area and the city of Wuhan<sup>7</sup>.

**H.E. John Aquilina, the Maltese Ambassador:** I extend sincere condolence to the families and friends of those who passed away from us, and I also extend heartfelt best wishes for quick recovery to those who are still affected by the sickness. We also think of the frontline workers, doctors, nurses, transport workers, and all those people putting themselves in harms way in order that this virus may have a minimal impact.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://finance.sina.cn/china/gjcj/2020-02-12/detail-iimxxstf0840457.d.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://weibo.com/deguoshiguan?profile\\_ftype=1&is\\_all=1#\\_rnd1582890515611](https://weibo.com/deguoshiguan?profile_ftype=1&is_all=1#_rnd1582890515611)

<sup>3</sup> <http://cn.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/21/WS5e4f5303a3107bb6b57a14bd.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://opinion.haiwainet.cn/n/2020/0211/c353596-31715313.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1659139042406083753&wfr=spider&for=pc>

<sup>6</sup> <http://news.cri.cn/20200212/43f7233f-460f-b7f3-e9f2-5c4021e2eec7.html>

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Malta would stand with China with solidarity, shoulder to shoulder.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Luca Ferrari, the Italian Ambassador:** my first condolences go to the families of victims. I wish a quick recovery to those who are in medical treatment. I also commend the extreme efforts the Chinese government has been putting in place to combat the virus and curb the containment. Allow me finally to praise all the Chinese physicians, lab technicians, nurses, and many staff and volunteers, whose professionalism, dedication and commitment are the model to the whole world. To all of them, I wish to say, Italy stands by their sides. We are mastering all the efforts we can to support the Chinese medical staffs and volunteers in Wuhan. Your success will be our success.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Milan Bačević, the Serbian Ambassador:** China's response to the epidemic prevention and control was rapid and effective. These powerful measures reflect the patriotism of the Chinese people, the full trust of the Chinese people in their leadership, and the determination of medical staffs to fight for the country. In this fight, many countries, regardless of their capabilities, provided China with assistance, not only expressed their sympathy for China's predicament, but also demonstrated their determination to work together with China. Although Serbia has limited capabilities, it will also contribute to China's prevention and control work at this moment.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Monsieur Laurent Bili, the French Ambassador:** Facing the challenge of the epidemic, we stand with the Chinese people and paid tribute to the calm and courage shown by the Chinese people. The Chinese government is facing many challenges, under which the government takes necessary measures. We understand this. I really admire the mobilization that China has carried out throughout the country. Especially the medical staff mobilized in Wuhan and elsewhere, have done extremely outstanding work. Besides, the ambassador also show his confidence in Chinese economy: In the short term, the epidemic will undoubtedly affect China and the global economic growth, but we believe that the Chinese economy will return to the growth track. China's strong economic development is in the interest of both China and its partners.<sup>4</sup>

**H.E. Nicolas Chapuis, Head of the Delegation of the European Union:** (The ambassador) reiterates the EU side's support for the Chinese government and people in the fight against the epidemic, appreciates the heroic efforts made by the Chinese medical staff on the frontline in the fight against the epidemic, and expresses the willingness of the EU and its member states to stand together with the Chinese side to tackle the challenge brought by the epidemic. All embassies and consulates of EU member states in China are currently operating. The EU will continue to follow the outbreak closely and respond to it prudently.<sup>5</sup>

**H.E. Pesti Máté, the Hungarian Ambassador:** the lives of the Chinese people have been greatly affected by the epidemic. During this difficult period, Hungary will, as always, support the Chinese

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.sohu.com/a/376392486\\_99959939](https://www.sohu.com/a/376392486_99959939)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.chinanews.com/gj/shipin/cns-d/2020/02-14/news847939.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> <http://news.cri.cn/20200220/a5297e5f-abae-d473-7c54-4761cf0a2dca.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2020/0219/c1002-31595217.html>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt\\_674879/wjbxw\\_674885/t1741837.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/wjdt_674879/wjbxw_674885/t1741837.shtml)

government and the Chinese people.<sup>1</sup>

**H.E. Rafael Dezcallar de Mazarredo, the Spanish Ambassador:** I wish to express the support and solidarity of Spain to China, in this difficult moment, when China is suffering from the coronavirus epidemic. My solidarity is especially to Wuhan and Hubei province. We are convinced that important measures and efforts taken by the Chinese government will have positive results.<sup>2</sup>

**H.E. Selim Belortaja, the Albanian Ambassador:** we are here appreciating the titanic work done by the Chinese government, especially the heroic work performed by the Chinese medical staff. They are in the front line against virus in Wuhan and in Hubei.<sup>3</sup>

**H.E. Signe Brudeset, the Norwegian Ambassador:** The province of Hubei and the city of Wuhan are going through a particularly challenging time. I extend my deepest sympathy and respect to all those affected by the coronavirus outbreak. In particular, the medical workers and others that are directly involved in combating the outbreak. Please accept our heartfelt thoughts and encouragements.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://m.chinanews.com/wap/detail/sp/sp/shipin/cns-d/2020/02-20/news9098997.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> [http://sa.sogou.com/sgsearch/sgs\\_video.php?mat=11&docid=2021310406XBJ9](http://sa.sogou.com/sgsearch/sgs_video.php?mat=11&docid=2021310406XBJ9)

<sup>3</sup> <http://opinion.haiwainet.cn/n/2020/0211/c353596-31715313.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.norway.no/zh/china/norway-china/news-and-events/1/ambassadors-letter-in-english2/>