

To: (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@minvws.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@minvws.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@minvws.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@rivm.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@rivm.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@rivm.nl; (10)(2e) (10)(2e)@rivm.nl;  
 From: Scheidel, O.F. (Ciska)  
 Sent: Thur 2/27/2020 9:25:55 AM  
 Subject: FW: Singapore & COVID-19  
[Singapore's approach to COVID-19.pdf](#)  
[Correspondence to the European Commission vs1.pdf](#)

---

Van: (10)(2e)@ec.europa.eu  
 Verzonden: donderdag 27 februari 2020 10:25:49 (UTC+01:00) Amsterdam, Berlijn, Bern, Rome, Stockholm, Wenen  
 Aan: (10)(2e)@ec.europa.eu  
 Onderwerp: Singapore & COVID-19

Dear Members of the Health Security Committee,

Please find below the letter regarding the Singapore's approach to dealing with COVID-19, from the South-East Asia EEAS.

Kind regards,

HSC Secretariat

Dear colleagues,

Many thanks to those who joined our 4-way VTC (Brussels-Luxembourg-Stockholm-Singapore) on Friday.

Subsequently Ambassador Jaya Ratnam provided us with the attached factsheet on Singapore's approach to dealing with COVID-19. He asked us to distribute this to participants in the VTC; I also take the opportunity to share it slightly more widely.

In his covering e-mail the Ambassador also wrote, "As the Director-General of WHO recently highlighted, we have left no stone unturned in not just being pro-active but also pre-emptive in our actions. As of 24 February 2020, Singapore has confirmed 90 Covid-19 cases. Most are either imported from China or can be attributed to links with travellers who have recently stayed in China. Of the 90 confirmed cases, 53 patients fully recovered and have been discharged. So far, 1239 cases have tested negative and the results of screening tests for 25 people are still pending. We are all facing an evolving situation and we will need to continue to monitor and adjust our measures as necessary. As Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan recently said (at sidelines of Special ASEAN-China FMM on COVID 19 on 20 Feb), *'in our hyper-connected world, the virus does not respect political boundaries, race, language, or religion. All of us are susceptible, which means is that there will be profound knock-on effects; it is not just the virus, but the impact on tourism, ports, airports, its impact even on the economy – the larger economy – in terms of global supply chains, as well as the impact on commodity prices – posing major, fundamental, profound challenges.'* In our view, we should continue to keep up our bilateral exchanges and cooperation on this fast moving issues. We would be happy to work with Singapore side to arrange for another similar session in coming weeks, so we continue to coordinate with each other. One possibility we could look at, if practical and useful, is for such a similar session ahead of the ASEAN-EU Videoconference on COVID-19 we are working on in early March. It is vital and critical at this juncture that we keep our channels open, and work with, not against, each other. In this regard, I am very pleased to update that the European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore are key partners in Singapore, as we work together to manage, overcome and recover. They have circulated the attached open letter entitled *'EuroCham Singapore's support for the actions undertaken by the Singapore authorities to contain the Covid-19 outbreak'* which I attach.

He also requested that we share the open letter "to all the key EU stakeholders involved in this effort, especially those who attended the video-conference as well as EU Member States [which we can do separately via COASI]. If there are any further updates from Singapore side, we look to ensure they are all kept updated through these channels."

For your information we are still trying to find a mutually convenient date in March for an EU-ASEAN VTC on COVID-19 to be co-chaired by HRVP and SGP FM Balakrishnan and with the involvement of key Commissioners/Ministers but have not managed to fix a date yet.

