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**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**  
**MINISTER**

Honorable Chair,  
Distinguished Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Albania aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, delivered by Croatia. I wish to add the following in a national capacity.

The situation in Albania has evolved, from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the outbreak, direct measures to contain the spread of the virus have been introduced.

We set up from the appearance of the first two cases on March 8th, a rigorous identification, testing, isolation, and treatment strategy and we adopted health system activities accordingly, to better respond the outbreak.

Data show that the spread of infection has been contained; the epidemic curve was ‘flattened’ the number of cases in need of hospitalizations didn’t threaten the stability of health care system, while the levels of mortality are kept at low levels.

Since mid- April, the number of recovered cases is higher than the number of active cases and the trend continues;

We identified over 950 cases, 78% of them are recovered.

But there are still active clusters in many regions of the country, and new cases are being identified every day, but the trend of the last two weeks shows a steady decline.

While the measures have resulted effective to contain the circulation of the virus and suppress the effect in health of the population and health system, the situation has been hitting the economy and society as whole.

We are moving in the Phase 2 of the re-opening strategy. The strategy will be gradual, accompanied by restrictions regarding the movement and contacts of people for at least 2 months and with strong recommendation.

Moving from one stage to the other is planned to be conducted only after a low-level risk is observed for at least 14 days with respect to: Confirmed daily cases; hospitalized patients and patients in intensive care.

Four stages are identified with specific measures for individuals, employees, institutions and businesses. Green and red geographic areas are identified, reflecting the number of cases and the transmission risks.

From the other side, combating the spread of the COVID 19 was also a moment to uphold the fundamental values such as solidarity, togetherness and civic responsibility.

The Government policies couldn't have been successful without the excellent cooperation of the public, who helped in several ways in responding to the pandemic, starting from the physical distancing and ending up in voluntarily helping those in need or those more exposed towards the economic effects of the pandemic.

In terms of solidarity, I would like to thank all the countries and international agencies for the support and the help for our country in facing the pandemic.

Novel corona virus required to build the know-how during the response. The WHO provided us with a transparent access to all platforms and initiatives, daily information, guidelines and recommendations.

Facing a pandemic is not easy. That's why my biggest appreciation goes for the first line medical personnel, whose work and mission showed to be irreplaceable.

I praise their work and their unconditional dedication in saving lives and protecting the humanity.

Now, more than ever we must act to strengthen the bonds with each other, to invest more in health care systems and partnership and in this way to build a safer world for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you,

**MINISTER**

**OGERTA MANASTIRLIU**