The European Union and Covid-19
Call for contributions by the European Union Research Group (GrUE)

On 2 April this year, as the Covid-19 pandemic was hitting Europe, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen apologised to Italy for the lack of responsiveness of the European Union (EU) when it requested its assistance. Since the pandemic arrived on the continent, it is true that the measures designed to curb it or limit its effects have mainly been drawn up, decided and applied on national territories, in most cases without consultation between the Member States. Despite the announcements made by the European institutions - economic recovery plan, support for research, stockpiling of equipment - these initiatives remain little visible to European citizens. The EU, which is contested for its lack of responsiveness and its inability to bring about cooperation and solidarity between states, is the target of strong criticism. For the less pessimistic observers, this would signal the beginning of a new period of crisis. Others already consider it as a sign that the Community project is dying.

But which crisis are we talking about here? What are its main dimensions? What lessons can be drawn from this episode regarding the management of health issues or epidemic phenomena at the European level? More generally, what can we say about the EU and its future?

We suggest here some questions or lines of thought that do not exhaust the subjects and issues likely to be dealt with in the framework of this dossier:
- **What the crisis owes to the EU**: this axis will explore the Community mechanisms and policies likely to shed light on the European influence on national policies, for example in the field of health or research, and its consequences on the ability to cope with a crisis such as the one we are experiencing.
- **European management of the crisis**: this second area aims to grasp the mechanisms operating in the construction of European responses to the crisis and their framework. How have the institutions adapted to the crisis? How have the day-to-day practices of EU officials adapted to it? How are EU responses to the crisis framed and legitimised? Which institutions are developing and implementing them and what does this tell us about the evolution of the European polity?
- **The emergence or disappearance of a European public space** : As crisis management has taken on a European dimension (cooperation, daily comparisons, etc.), are we witnessing the beginnings of a European public space or, on the contrary, are the persistent national narratives fostering a growing sense of mistrust of the EU and thus a crisis of solidarity and identity for the EU?

Beyond these few suggestions, contributions on any other issue directly or indirectly involving the EU will be welcome, as well as comparative approaches.

In order to provide a first set of answers to these questions, we are seeking contributions that are intended to grasp the different facets of the Europeanness of a crisis whose stakes and consequences are most often thought of at the national or even local level. They will consist of an analysis of the crisis using the conceptual tools of the social sciences and may be based on empirical materials (for example, preliminary results of ongoing research) or be integrated into the debates of European studies. The articles received, ranging from 8 to 10,000 signs, will be published on the website of the bilingual journal *Politique européenne* - section "Thinking Europe".

They will be subject to a double evaluation by a member of the journal's editorial board and a member of the EUG. Publication is subject to the validation of this proofreading process.

Proposals for articles should be sent from now on to the following address: europeenreflexion.grue@gmail.com.