



COVID 19 PANDEMIA AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT

Since the bombing of twin towers, the World has confronted with global threats such as global terrorism, drug use, global warming and the global viruses which spread worldwide where people have no way to escape. Covid 19 was one of the most threatening of these recent crises lasting long and compelling the countries to act interdependantly.

Together with its sui generis structure and fragmented decision making, European Union was emergently urged to act cooperatively and lay out strategies to minimise the severe consequences of the global crisis regardless of the differences in their priorities, policies, ideologies, geopolitical situation.

The aim of this study is to evaluate the economic, social and political effects of the pandemic on the European Union, which has already suffered from the global economic crisis, and to examine how the national and supranational policies of the European Union countries have mitigated the severity of the threat during this crisis and to learn lessons about the policies to be determined for the future.

Keywords: European Union, COVID 19, Pandemia, Global threat, Cooperation

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KOVID 19 PANDEMİSİ VE AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ ÜZERİNE YANSIMALARI

ÖZ

İkiz kulelerin bombalanmasından bu yana, dünya küresel terörizm, uyuşturucu, küresel ısınma ve küresel virüs gibi insanların kaçacak yerlerinin olmadığı tüm dünyaya yayılan tehditlerle karşılaştılar. KOVID 19 da ülkelerin birbirine bağımlı hareket etmesini gerektiren son yılların en önemli tehditlerinden biriydi.

Kendine has yapısı, yönetim şekli ve farklı katmanlarda karar alma mekanizmalarıyla; Avrupa Birliği tüm ekonomik, sosyal, kültürel ve ideolojik farklılıklara bakmaksızın küresel krizi iyi yönetmek ve asgari zarar görmek için doğru stratejileri yaratmak ve birlikte hareket etmek zorunda kaldılar.

Bu çalışmanın amacı; pandeminin hali hazırda küresel ekonomik krizden zarar gören Avrupa Birliği üzerindeki ekonomik, sosyal ve siyasi etkilerini değerlendirmek ve bu kriz sürecinde Avrupa Birliği ülkelerinin ulusal ve uluslararası politikaların tehditin şiddetini hafifletmede nasıl bir etki yarattığını incelemek ve ileriye dönük belirlenecek politikalar konusunda dersler çıkarmaktır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Avrupa Birliği, KOVID 19, Pandemi, Küresel Tehdit, İşbirliği,

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization China Country Office was given the information of similar pneumonia cases whose causes were recorded as 'unknown' originated in Wuhan City which was in Hubei Province. The number of cases with the same diagnosis were detected and the number reached to 44. After ten days of research to find out the sources of the disease, outbreak was attributed to one seafood sold in a market in Wuhan. The number of the cases following similar patterns of symptoms increased apparently. Then the cases started to transfer to the other countries starting from Thailand to Japan and Korea.

Corona virus is regarded as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) leading to the disease named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

The virus originated in China had a spill over effect and revealed the fact that manufacturing in China, which is in quarantine during January and February, closure of the companies that form the basis of the industry and the limitation of sectors such as travel/cargo transportation accelerated the devastation. As a result, the disconnect experienced in China, the starting point of the global value chain, spread all over the world in March with the domino effect (McKibbin and Fernando, 2020, p. 2).

According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), between 13% and 32% reduction in global trade in 2020 and double-digit decreases were recorded in the trade volume of all regions (WTO, 2020).

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), although there are uncertain signs of recovery compared to the peak of the crisis, global trade may be expected to ease the current restrictions, remove the restrictions or start a new normalization process, however, it still remains low and continues to shrink (OECD, 2020). The fluctuating numbers in the number of the cases and deaths displays a very vulnerable scenario which can instantly be transformed into an emergent situation. Particularly in the early 2020, pandemic accelerated with its severe consequences in the world.

According to the World Economic Outlook Report (WEO - World Economic Outlook) published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF - International Monetary Fund) in June 2020, in April, down 1.9 percent from the forecasts made, the overall economic growth level declined by 4.9 percent, and the optimistic picture for recovery was expected to make a longer and gradual progress, which was only a growth of 5.4 percent in 2021 (IMF, 2020).

The crisis created by the Covid process did not arise from a specific problem that occurred at a certain point in the global economy, but created a domino effect from multiple exit points such as "stopping of sectoral activities, contraction in demand, supply shock and evaporation of financial capital values". The global economy, which has not been able to get rid of the effects of the 2008 financial crisis and the stagnant global economy, pandemic process, and the effects of the 1929 Great Depression and the 2008 Global Financial Crisis have resulted in the greatest losses ever experienced in a shorter time and on a larger scale (Voyvoda and Yeldan, 2020, p.4).

Based upon the data collected and the thorough research conducted by the World Health Organisation, as part of the guidance some measures were taken such as masks, adaptation or closure of schools, adaptation or closure of businesses or limits, restrictions on public or private gatherings, restrictions on domestic movement, public transport and stay at home orders, international travel restrictions, quarantining and testing which differed according to the

differences of the severity of the situation and the diverse policies adopted by the states. However, WHO aiming to mitigate the severity of the situation worldwide attempted to standardize the measures regardless of differences in governmental policies since taking precautions in a specific district will be in vain unless the same measures are applied in the neighbourhood.

2. HOW DOES EUROPEAN UNION REACT AGAINST COVID 19?

European Union appearing to be a super power as an amalgamation of countries bringing about the western civilization was not competent enough to handle the process. It also paved the way to see the weaknesses of the structure of the EU decision making and operational deficiencies of the system.

During the global economic crisis, COVID 19 created a unique startling effect on European Union which has recently been recovering from the economic crisis and EU economy has been exposed to a deep economic stagnation (European Commission, 2020a)

European Union which has emerged as an economic community in the late fifties has evolved into different structures in accordance with the changing supra and sub-systems in the world. Even the aim of the community to preserve peace and order in Europe has evolved into a new format by the involvement of newcomers with so diversified features. Having sui-generis characteristics, the European Union had no previous route to follow. Besides, establishing a union operating at national, international and supra-national level appeared to be impossible to achieve due to the conflicts of interests and changing economic and political conjuncture of the world.

While European Union was searching for the alternatives to resurrect, the unanticipated COVID crisis triggered the problems and made them float on the water. Another important fact ruled out was that EU was so much dependant upon the supply chain of China and was affected by the crisis much more than the other countries.

Health issues have always been given priority among other duties of the governments and had direct repercussions upon politics and economics. The COVID-19 pandemic led to devastation in the world where governments imposed several tactics in accordance with the instantly changing numbers of the positive cases. At first very strict decisions were taken to mitigate the case numbers which resulted in an increasing economic depression. Countries at first tried to lay out national strategies, however, when the World Health Organisation legally defined the crisis as 'pandemic', cooperation among the countries was inevitably required.

Member states of the European Union also laid out international policies to cope with the crisis. In July 2020, the decision to channelize 750 billion Euro to conduct research and help the countries affected by the crisis economically did not define apparently whether that financial aid would be in the form of loan or grant.

The statistical data concisely proved the fact that countries of the European Union had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. It brought about the urgent need to restructure health systems in such a way that they would be in capacity to cope with the severe consequences of the pandemic crisis. Not only the health system but also security, education, supply chain were influenced by the crisis.

During the pandemic, there have been different measures taken by the EU primarily restricting the contamination of the virus, supplying the medical equipments, advocating vaccination practices, medical treatment and combatting with misinformation. They also made decisions to aid the EU citizens who were stranded in other countries and provide financial support to economy and improve employment. EU has also closed the borders temporarily to prevent contamination and developed a green line to deliver basic food items (European Commission, 2020a).

2.1. Strategies and Tactics

European Union put forward strategies and tactics to cope with the problems stemming from COVID 19.

These measures can be listed as:

- Risk assessment made by the European Centre for Disease Control
- Weekly coordination meetings with the specialists from the member states
- Supplying the test kits, respiration equipments
- Emergency equipment reserve was established
- Production of goods which are primarily essential have been increased
- The export of these goods have been subject to regulations
- For research and development particularly for medical treatment and vaccination, 220 million Euro has been allocated
- Data platform was founded to collect and share data
- 164 million Euro was allocated to the small and medium size enterprises to develop innovative idea
- 3.1 billion Euro of it has been allocated against the impacts of crisis and 37 billion of it has been allocated to the initiative for CORONA investments and 800 million of it was allocated Public Health. This financial fund was allocated from the EU budget to transfer to the EU Solidarity Fund (European Commission, 2020a).

On 21 July 2020, EU governments and heads of state approved the recovery fund, which the EU aims to increase the Union's resilience against the coronavirus epidemic, and the Multi-Annual Financial Framework budget to be used between 2021-2027, to which this fund will depend. 750 billion euros of the 1824.3 billion euros in total will be used for the elimination of the damage caused by the corona virus epidemic (Financial Times, 2020).

Member states of the EU would rather have coped with the economic problems at the EU level but they tackled with the problems arising from the deficiencies in the health system at national level which grew the negative impacts of the crisis. EU countries were very apathetic and did not expect the crisis to have such a broad scope in the beginning where they did not need to act cooperatively to take necessary measures. Besides, European Union lacks the legal basis to take decisions in health issues. COVID 19 unraveled the urgent necessity to grant initiative to European Union to legislate on health issues. EU countries realised the fact that their nationwide efforts were in vain to cope with the situation and delegation of authority to the EU institutions was the first thing to do to survive.

2.2. National vs Supra-national

Public health is traditionally regarded as the service given by the states, however, it was impossible to tackle with unless authority is transferred to EU for which the necessary structures have not been identified yet. Since European Union has no right to enact law on public issues,

it was not likely to form a common health policy to apply in all the European countries. However, Eurobarometer results indicate that citizens of the EU countries do not have trust in the EU institutions and recently starting with United Kingdom have doubts about the future of the Union.

Referring to the international relations theories, COVID 19 pandemic was exactly the period of ‘interdependence’ where the crisis has spread from China to other countries and inevitably to European Union countries whose borders are very close to each other which was impossible to act autonomously.

The COVID-19 pandemic in the EU reflected different trends in terms of total recorded cases, deaths, types of transmission, and the CFR number of deaths/total number of cases), as identified from the data published by World Health Organization. The weekly reports of the WHO clearly showed how the numbers were fluctuated in different regions of the world so instantly which increased the panic worldwide (Alanezi et al., 2021).

The total number of recorded cases in the EU as of 5th October 2020, was 3,023,822 with 148,872 deaths. Among the countries in the EU that had exceeded 300,000 total cases were Spain, with the highest number of cases, followed by France, Italy, and Germany. The number of recorded cases in The Netherlands, Romania, and Belgium were very similar, ranging from 130,000 to 136,000. Seven countries recorded less than 10,000 cases: Luxembourg, Slovenia, Lithuania, Estonia, Malta, Latvia, and Cyprus.

Italy as an example was the country where coronavirus has been detected with very high numbers of deaths increasingly. In Italy particularly local governments took the necessary precautions. Governments shot videos to raise awareness for the situation and calls for people staying at home. Amusement parks, shopping malls, schools were closed for a certain period of time, all the outdoor activities were banned, the artistic and sport events were postponed, travels were restricted. The Italian government has set the penalty limit between 400 euros and 3000 euros. Also according to the decree announced, despite the positive Covid-19 tests, the order to stay in quarantine, 1 to 5 years in prison sought for “willful violators” (Yılmaz, 2020).

The most important outcome arising from the Italian case was that Italian citizens thought that they were left alone by the EU during the very critical days of the crises. Hence some of the Italian politicians even thought that being a member of the EU was something unnecessary since they did not have the support from the Union. The public opinion against the EU membership has been getting more and more negative. Vice president of the Italian Representative Assembly burn the European Union flag to protest.

In spite of the fact that Italy was one of the six founding states of the European Economic Community, they lost their reliance towards the Union and gave the signals of making a referendum to exit like United Kingdom.

The numbers shared by the WHO reveals that the situation is still threatening. The new cases in last 24 hours is 450, 970 whereas the cumulative cases are 236,599,025 and the cumulative deaths is 4, 831,486 as of 10th October, 2021 whereas the confirmed cases in Europe is 71, 486. 376 which is the second highest after the United States with 91,014,944 (Tubitak, 2021).

Since COVID-19 has a high likelihood to contaminate, it created panic and governments made a call to stay at home. Hence, life has been different in all stages of people’s lives. Education was one of them which compelled the students to receive education online. According to the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) by 4 March 2020,

in different continents 22 schools were announced to have been closed. Then the measure has been extended into other countries as well.

Economic situation has also been affected negatively in all countries. The period of lockdown in the countries resulted in crisis in all industries. In the beginning only the countries were economically affected by the pandemic but then middle or small size enterprises in the industries of logistics, tourism, aviation, agriculture, accommodation all suffered from the decisions taken against the pandemic. It became impossible to sustain their existence for the companies during pandemic. Companies tended to downsize to compensate their losses which boosted unemployment in all countries.

As part of the lockdown strategies, companies preferred to make their employees work from home leading to the difficulty in monitoring and decrease in efficiency. Due to the demotivation of the people, productivity dropped remarkably.

Another important sector suffered from pandemic was agriculture. As the crisis broke out in winter, crops could not be harvested. In most of the European countries, there has been an initiative to increase production which was European Production Mobilisation. Within that framework, incentives were presented by the institutions such as Food Drink Europe in order to sustain some production industries in European Union. Italian Farmers Union namely Coldiretti announced that there will be problems in the arrival of the Albanian and Romanian seasonal workers which will strengthen the crisis. Another suggestion was made by France. Since the seasonal workers would not be able to come from Morocco and Tunisia, French government called the unemployed to work in the farms to harvest the crop. The campaign was called 'agricultural patriotism'

Another good example of solidarity came from Spain. According to the announcement made by the Young Farmers Agriculture Union, in order to prevent the negative impact of the pandemic, farmers cooperated to assist the local authorities and by using their own tractors, water supply tanks, loading the disinfectant mixtures into the tanks to spray them to the public areas (Olive Oil Times, 2021).

Together with the collapse of agricultural industry, logistics and some other related sectors were in difficulty and the products could not reach their target. Suppliers and markets started to stow product which deepened the gap.

Small and medium sized enterprises are so crucial in the European Union economy, they were given incentives to modify themselves according to the COVID-19 process. Steady state companies were forced to transform into decentralized organisations where the decision can be taken faster. Thanks to the information and Communication Technologies, the structures of small and medium size enterprises had to reorganise their structures so as not to be late to relieve the pain of the crisis.

On 23 April 2020 and 27 May 2020, the EU Commission published two separate reports on the estimation of the effects of the global crisis created by the Covid-19 epidemic on the EU (European Commission, 2020b). In the forecasts made in December 2019 for the economic outlook of the EU, an increase of 1.2 percent in the EU's GDP was expected in 2020, while this value was -2.9 percent after Covid 19, 9.2 percent in exports. It is stated that there will be a decrease of 8.8 percent in imports and 9.7 percent in the world total trade volume, and that the manufacturing sector will be affected the most (European Commission. (2020b). The report and note titled "Trade Policy Reflections Beyond the COVID-19 Outbreak" were not updated, but the effects of the epidemic were discussed in more detail (European Commission, 2020c). The

report has shown that COVID 19 had a very remarkable negative impact on European Economy proving the fact that countries highly depend on each other within and outside Europe. Hence, trade policy is very crucial in the post COVID 19 recovery period. The report states that;

Although there is data collected, research data at an aggregated and sectorial level, more detailed firm-level data is required in order to fully understand the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on EU trade, particularly in sectors where production is fragmented globally. The scarcity of firm-level data limits the ability to get an overview of the impact on EU firms and the linkages between the supply chains of these firms.

COVID 19 was a very different crisis regarding its scope, impact and the process itself. The Multi-Sociological Aspects of the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought about multi-sociological impacts which means that it has psychological, social, commercial, political, economic, psycho-social impacts which should be considered by also taking the cultural, educational and international factors into consideration. The term 'New Normal' has been added to the literature after the COVID 19 (Karakas, 2020, p.567).

Regarding the challenges of COVID-19 for the European Union (EU), the EU has been caught to such a scope-wide crisis without preparations. As mentioned in the EU Commission reports, in state aid and economic governance, the adaptability to the crisis was higher in comparison with the area of Schengen Wolff and Ladi, 2020, p. 1031).

EU needed the time to gradually adapt to the changing circumstances resulting from COVID 19. In the beginning, they could not be well-coordinated since the virus affected the member states differently. Italy was the first state where emergent action should be taken in terms of medical equipment and the reintroduction of internal borders. Also European citizens like in all other parts of the world, had difficulty accepting the fact that they will be locked down which will limit their freedom to mobility and work. However, when the situation was getting worse and worse day by day, the recovery package was consented in order to survive.

The changing dynamics of the COVID 19 led to the ambiguities and fluctuations due to the instant changes. Though the European Union is an identity in itself, member states had to act differently in accordance with the severity of the impacts of CORONA in each member states. Hence the policies that are adopted against the crisis has differed. Trust in the government, governance, domestic politics and differences in economic terms diversified the decisions taken.

Italy was the first EU member states suffering from the CORONA cases, however, EU countries refrained from sending medical equipments to Italy which complicated the situation. Free movement of people as part of the European integration was no longer applicable due to the need to prevent the virus from contamination.

One of the recent developments was the G7 summit convened under the presidency of the U.K. in 11-13 June, 2021. The aim was to unite the powers of the welfare states to recover from COVID 19 and rebuild the economies. Members of the G7 reached conciliaion to set out a series of concrete steps to compensate the damage resulted from COVID 19.

It was actually a very crucial step towards the future of the global crisis management.

The roundtable meeting of the G7 leaders convened for the betterment of global health together with other participants from South Korea, South Africa, Australia, and India; by the UN secretary general; and by other representative of international organizations. It had the

significance from the global perspective not only for the current pandemic but also for the prospective global pandemics.

Most of the decisions taken were not new but The United Kingdom's 100m-dose pledge is "entirely new", according to a spokesperson. The United States has already donated \$2bn (£1.4bn) to Covax, according to a White House official. In February, the Biden administration pledged \$2bn more. But that second \$2bn will now fund the purchase of the Pfizer doses, manufactured in the US, along with \$1.5bn in additional funds, according to the official (The Guardian, 2021).

Although the plan was not tailored in accordance with the features of the countries separately, they presented jointly 'the Pandemic Preparedness Partnership' which was created by the U.K and was composed of the international technocrats coming from industry, government or scientific institutions, who had the field of expertise drawn from across industry, government, and scientific institutions, established by the U.K. to advise the G7 on how to prevent, detect, and respond to future pandemics. The Pandemic Preparedness Partnership prepared an independent report, 'the 100 Days Mission to Respond to Future Pandemic Threats', including applicable suggestions for the government and other directly or indirectly related institutions on how to respond to crises immediately with reference to a predetermined crisis plan. The report underlined the importance of the first 100 days just after the diagnosis of the epidemic which was claimed to change its course and prevent it from transforming into pandemic.

The G7 pledged over the next 12 months to secure a further 1bn vaccine doses either through donating surplus supplies or providing further finance to Covax, the UN-backed scheme charged with distributing vaccines to low- and middle-income countries.

The report had considerable significance in terms of the messages given for the future arrangements. Health system and the related international organisations such as World Health Organisation was also intended to be strengthened, reformed and updated according to the changing needs of the global society and the lessons learned from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Although U.K had very high numbers of cases revealing the fact that the national policies against COVID was not successful, they had very remarkable actions against the pandemic in the global arena.

According to the researches conducted, most of the new diseases are caused by the animals. As an alternative solution, the U.K. established the 'Animal Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Center' which will be funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Another initiative by the U.K. was 'Global Pandemic Radar' which functions to detect the COVID 19 variants and track new diseases.

The 47th G7 Summit was held in Cornwall (UK) from 11-13 June 2021. After a year of unprecedented uncertainty and tragedy due to the Covid-19 pandemic, G7 leaders met to discuss joint actions to fight the spread of the pandemic collectively, stop climate change and help economies recover. They pledged to make 2021 the year of multilateralism's renaissance (EIAS, 2021).

The 47th G7 Summit had a peculiar place in terms of the decisions taken. As well as the leaders of the G7 countries including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US; the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission; representing the EU, and leaders from Australia, India, South Africa, and South Korea participated as guests. Thanks to the high participation from different regions of the world at different status having

only one thing common to discuss which was COVID 19 pandemic eased the decision making. <https://eias.org/news/g7-summit-2021-can-multilateralism-get-us-out-of-the-crises/> There were some crucial outcomes of the last G7 Summit. UK by having a leading role in the meeting found the opportunity to redefine its diplomatic relations during the post-Brexit period. France also had the role to ease the tension between China and the United States.

G7 summits are important to make global decisions particularly during the times of crisis. Participants from different regions of the world brainstorming in such a way that different perceptions selective for different needs and expectations leads to taking more effective and efficient decisions.

Economic recovery after the covid crisis, global warming, trade, global values, multilateralism will be the other topics to be discussed.

As for the more recent developments, since the EU had the downsides of considering the global threat in the scope of the nation states, in the recent developments more coordinated approaches were prioritized. In the proposal by the European Commission drafted as a Proposal for Council Recommendation argued that the unilateral measures against COVID 19 has triggered the economic crisis regionwide and urged the member states to take coordinated measures. (European Commission, 2021)

3. LESSONS TO BE TAKEN

Although it was too late to be criticized by the member states and their citizens, the EU started to take decisions valid for all countries within the scope of the Union against the Covid-19 crisis as of March and was able to process the necessary packages. First of all, after the European Council meetings on March 17, 2020, in line with the measures taken against Covid-19, EU member states aimed to work together/jointly to prevent the spread of the virus, to provide medical supplies, to support Covid-19 researches, and to contribute to socio-economic impact. - they have identified 4 main priorities, such as overcoming the pantry. In this context, non-essential travels to the Schengen area were restricted, and a rescEU stock with a budget of 50 million Euros, which is a part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism, was created to assist member countries in the supply of medical equipment (European Commission, 2020a). After the European Council meetings held on 17-21 July 2020, the New Multi-Annual Financial Framework (1,824, 1824) with the agreement reached on the EU 2021-2027 budget in order to eliminate the socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis and to improve the economies of the member states. 3 billion euros) and a rescue package that could rise up to 750 billion euros (European Council, 2020a). In this whole process, it was decided to exempt the member countries by providing flexibility in the criteria of the Economic and Monetary Union and the Stability and Growth Pact, in the face of the collapse of their economies due to the involuntary shock arising from the health crisis. Although it was too late to be criticized by the member states and their citizens, the EU started to take decisions valid for all countries within the scope of the Union against the Covid-19 crisis as of March and was able to process the necessary packages. First of all, after the European Council meetings on March 17, 2020, in line with the measures taken against Covid-19, EU member states aimed to work together/jointly to prevent the spread of the virus, to provide medical supplies, to support Covid-19 researches, and to contribute to socio-economic impact. - they have identified 4 main priorities, such as overcoming the pantry. In this context, non-essential travels to the Schengen area were restricted, and a rescEU stock with a budget of 50 million Euros, which is a part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism, was created to assist member countries in the supply of medical equipment (European Commission, 2020d). ; European Council, 2020). After the European Council meetings held on 17-21 July 2020, the New Multi-Annual Financial Framework (1,824,

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4. CONCLUSION

COVID 19 has been a global crisis radically changed the conceptualization and the scope of threat. Even though it has been known that threat has been globalized after bombing of the twin towers, COVID 19 was unique in its impacts and outcomes. Regardless of geographical, ethnic, nationalistic, linguistic and religious differences and the developmental level of the countries, all countries were affected by COVID 19.

European Union member states were among the mostly affected states. Although the crisis originated from Wuhan, China, it had a very fast spill-over effect and spread worldwide. At first it was not regarded as an alert situation and was not expected to have such severe consequences.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the fact that CORONA virus has no borders or clearcut demarcations which necessitate all the actors such as the member states, EU institutions, outsiders, super powers of the world to act together. Otherwise, the crisis will not be over. Although some EU member states such as France and Germany had important contributions to lay out policies to combat with COVID 19, member states prefer to take national decisions in terms of health, education and security. They only delegated their authority to the EU institutions in economic decisions where they felt that their rights were not protected well.

EU member states were reluctant to comply with the decisions taken at the supranational level due to the economic stagnation in their countries during the global economic depression. That unwillingness turned into lack of reliance towards the EU institutions which may result in more severe problems in the future. During the time of crises like COVID 19, cooperation is the priority important act. There is no address of the virus since it spread in a very short time affecting all spheres of life. Predetermined scenarios with predetermined road map and crisis plan may mitigate the severity of the crises. Unless all the attempt is in compliance with each other and complementary which is based upon thorough research, the results may not be that much hazardous in the future.

There have been so many lessons to be learned from the COVID 19. The crisis is unpredictable with its consequences thus it may require tailoring process which means the strategies and tactics to be imposed may vary according to the differences in their structures. The permanent flow of information based upon scientific research and follow up may resolve the crisis at different fragmented levels.

It is repetitively claimed that 'world will not be the place as it is today' and the 'New Normal' will have its own mechanisms. People will be more sensitive to their environment and they will have the anxiety whether it will be experienced once again or not. The transition from the crisis to the normal period will take time.

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