

Government decision not to carry out review on corona pandemic

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This is not only embarrassing but irresponsible / European Parliament had a special committee in 2022/23 / Clear conclusions: Young people have suffered too much; science and medicine played a key role in combating the pandemic / The many deaths and Long Covid patients must not be forgotten

"This is not only embarrassing for the Ampel^[1], but irresponsible towards all those who have lost relatives to the coronavirus or are still suffering from Long Covid today, and also towards the young people who, according to general assessments, have suffered from disproportionately high restrictions", explained Dr Peter Liese, MD, when the Ampel coalition decided not to carry out a systematic coronavirus review.

"The embarrassment becomes very clear when we realise that the European Parliament set up a special committee to investigate the pandemic at the beginning of 2022 and presented a comprehensive final report in December 2023. We held dozens of meetings with experts and people concerned and have made clear recommendations. I regret that these recommendations have largely played no role in the German debate. For us in the European Parliament, one thing is clear: when considering how best to stop the spread of the virus, most European countries have focussed too heavily on school closures. This was particularly bad in Germany. While schools were closed, there were no mandatory regulations on working from home, and private parties in private rooms were still permitted everywhere and regularly turned into superspreading events. Here, adults were allowed to do too much and the education of young people was disproportionately restricted. Other countries, such as Ireland, have done better," says Liese.

Role model for the campaign against Covid-19 is Ireland, not Great Britain

"It is good that the disproportionate burden on young people is generally recognised. However, it is very sad that the suffering of the many people who are still suffering from Long Covid today and the relatives who have lost a loved one to Covid are being lost in the debate. Not only were the measures too strict, but there were also not enough measures in many areas. We have saved too few lives," emphasised the doctor and MEP.

"For the European Parliament, science and modern medicine have played an important role in overcoming the pandemic and must also be at the heart of preparing for future pandemics. For me, it is still a great success story that the development of a vaccine began in Germany in January 2020 with the support of the European Union and was authorised in the same year. We need to counter anti-vaccination campaigners and conspiracy theorists much more vigorously. Otherwise, I fear that Professor Christian Drosten of the Charité is right when he says that Germany is less prepared for a possible new pandemic than it is for the coronavirus. This does not apply to the EU. In many other countries, anti-vaccination campaigners and conspiracy theorists do not have the same level of support as in Germany. And the European Union has not only come to terms with the coronavirus pandemic, but has also created new structures".

<https://peter-liese.de/20-gesundheit/4248-entscheidung-der-koalition-keine-corona-aufarbeitung-durchzufuehren> [24.10.2024] / © Peter Liese MdEP

[¹ traffic light: the German government consisting of the parties SPD, FDP and Greens]