

Kim, Sabrina

From: Kim, Sabrina
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Stickney, Matt
Cc: Holland, Alyx; Theis, Rick; Davis, Kathleen; Tran, Thi
Subject: Re: Mask diplomacy

Oui. Just sayin' we'll probs get asked soon by journos.

Sabrina Kim
Issues Advisor
Office of the Prime Minister
613-795-7803

On Apr 1, 2020, at 3:19 PM, Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:

To be clear, we have.

From: Kim, Sabrina <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Holland, Alyx <alyx.holland@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Theis, Rick <Rick.Theis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Stickney, Matt <Matt.Stickney@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Davis, Kathleen <Kathleen.Davis@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Tran, Thi <Thi.Tran@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Subject: Mask diplomacy

The EU was asked about Huawei's PPE donations to Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Greece and Switzerland and whether they constitute "mask diplomacy". Their response was simply "that's not how things work."

Just FYI as we may soon get asked to confirm whether Canada is also in receipt of donations from Huawei.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "News / Nouvelles (PCO/BCP)" <News-Nouvelles@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
Date: April 1, 2020 at 1:18:28 PM EDT
To: <Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Subject: Reuters: EU trade chief sees no quid pro quo in Huawei's 'mask diplomacy'

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EU trade chief sees no quid pro quo in Huawei's 'mask diplomacy'

Reuters

EU industry chief Thierry Breton on Wednesday said he did not see any ulterior motive behind Huawei's donations of face masks to the bloc and that solidarity was the best way to tackle the global coronavirus outbreak.

Chinese network equipment maker Huawei, the world's No. 1, has drawn criticism from some quarters in recent days after giving millions of protective masks and gloves to Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Greece and Switzerland.

Dubbed by some as mask diplomacy, critics say the move could be a ploy to win lucrative 5G contracts following EU guidelines announced in January which block the company from core infrastructure networks.

Chinese online retailer Alibaba and other Chinese companies have also given face masks and medical supplies to coronavirus-hit EU countries while the Chinese government has provided protective gear.

Asked whether the donations suggested that the companies were looking for a quid pro quo, Breton said: "Absolutely not. I have been a CEO myself and I know it doesn't work this way."

In a telephone interview with Reuters he said CEOs had a duty to help countries where their businesses operate if governments seek their help.

"I don't know one single CEO ...thinking that this is because...you will get something in return. No one," said Breton, a former CEO at French telecoms provider Orange and French IT giant Atos.

He noted that European companies with Chinese subsidiaries also did their bit at the peak of the virus outbreak in China.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell kicked off a debate a week ago with comments on the politics of generosity and China's attempt to shape the global narrative on who is helping who.

Breton, who wanted to visit China in January to offer help but was constrained by security and safety issues, said it was better to join hands to fight the crisis rather than squabble about who is doing more.

"We will overcome this situation only if we are all together, only if solidarity will apply everywhere, solidarity first between people themselves, solidarity within a country, solidarity within a continent, solidarity between continents," Breton said.

He said the virus crisis, which has slowed the European Commission's work as officials work from home, had not hampered his plan to build technology powerhouses to catch up with Silicon Valley and state-backed Chinese heavyweights.

Legislation scheduled for this year includes rules which could force Google, Facebook and Amazon to take on more responsibilities for content hosted on their platforms, and others making better use of industrial data held by companies such as Siemens and Alstom. Breton said he did not envisage delays.

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