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#### PRESS RELEASE

The Albanian Academy of Sciences has been monitoring the situation emerged from SARS-COV-2 virus in our country since the very beginning and is seriously committed to playing an active role in finding appropriate solution to coping with pandemic.

The Academy of Sciences is exchanging and analyzing the information about COVID-19 with international institutions involved in the area along with the Health Commission and together investigating our laboratory, hospital and epidemiological data. In this context, the members of the Health Commission of the Albanian Academy of Sciences Prof Alban Ylli, Prof Arjan Harxhi, Prof Edvin Prifti, Prof Genc Sulçebe and Prof Perlat Kapisyzi have shown a great sense of responsibility and have been very active in sensitizing the public opinion and institutions involved in the area to the potential dangers of pandemic by disseminating scientific information in a clear and understandable way to the population across the country, giving appropriate suggestions about better coping with the pandemic, and exchanging scientific information with the most experienced international institutions.

Now that Albania has entered the most critical phase of the intense circulation of the SARS-COV -2 virus, the Albanian Academy of Sciences invites everyone to follow the experts' recommendations for social distancing and to show social responsibility as the only means to address virus isolation, as based on abundant and reliable scientific information provided by our Health Commission.

So, the Academy of Sciences along with the Health Commission fully support the measures taken by the Government to cope with the pandemic. At the same time, we emphasize that the situation would have been much more difficult and with severe consequences to the health of the population and Albanian society if such measures were not taken.

Numbers speak themselves. With the normal course of the pandemic, today, we would already have more than 500 infected people with SARS-COV-2, but currently we have 146 infected people, due to the measures taken. Experience from countries clearly teaches us that the increase of infection cases becomes catastrophic as long as social distancing and measures taken to keep the pandemic under control are ignored. Pandemics could be kept under control if and only if the measures put in place to limit the spread of virus COVID-19 are respected and advices are followed. The virus progress in the next 10 days depends only on us, with one simple weapon:

**AVOID ANY DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE OTHERS.**

Being isolated in our homes means being aware about the great danger that threatens us as individuals and as a community, but also helps us to not experience losses of our dear ones. These days are crucial to coping with pandemic with as less human loss as possible.

The Academy of Sciences and its Health Commission fully supports the colleagues, doctors, nurses and other health care workers and everyone else who is at the forefront of fight against COVID-19. We

address them and the state police, the armed forces, reporters and other officers a special thank for their service to the country.

Highly appreciating their dedication and professionalism in coping with the situation, we urge all citizens to be as careful as possible and the state bodies to support the health care workers by giving them appropriate equipment and supplies in order to prevent them from any possible infection.

The Academy of Sciences and its Health Commission consider that in the future the measures have to be adapted to the dynamics of the situation in the country and to the best international experience. We will collaborate with scientific institutions and front-line colleagues to obtain and share the information and the most successful practices.

The Academy of Sciences and its Health Commission are committed to fostering the scientific research by collecting and analyzing any information about the SARS-COV-2 causing COVID-19, i.e., exploring scientific reports and the data on potential therapies to enhance scientific research and knowledge for a better situation and to support the government and non-governmental institutions engaged in the fight against the pandemic.

This is along war, but science will allow humanity to triumph.

President of the Albanian Academy of Sciences

Chairman of the Health Commission

Acad Skënder Gjinushi

Acad Anesti Kondili

The members of the Health Commission

Prof Alban Ylli

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Prof Anila Godo

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