



## (LEADERSHIP-)OBSERVATIONS IN COVID

As a dual citizen, I have a particular view on “Living in the era of COVID” that somehow demonstrates that we often laugh about and also suffer under “bad leadership”, but that we need to look at us as societies (read also employees) and what role we play with our expectations and our accountability to ourselves. Afterall: politics is just leadership.

**We laughed about the leadership in the USA** – but let’s have a closer look:

- I received so far (and more is coming) USD 2000 – just like this!
- The request for a “just in case” loan for my business was done in less than 1 hour and the money 2 weeks later on my account
- The IRS pushed the deadline for taxes for everybody by a month this year
- I would have been able to travel within the US to all states – taking precautions and quarantining where indicated
- I could have gone to restaurants and otherwise would have had a life much closer to “normal”
- And most importantly: I would be vaccinated by now – even just based on age let alone my risk group

**In comparison: Germany** (I was in Germany at the beginning of the pandemic and decided to stay here), where we hailed leadership and the treatment of the situation in the beginning:

- Any kind of financial aid -personally or for the business- is a) a bureaucratic nightmare and b) has a high likelihood of not arriving – even months after promised dates
- The tax authority collects taxes for the distance between home and office – even though you are at home – either working or being on furlough (a detail – I know BUT what does that tell you if they do dwell in such detail but have not had the time to actually think about how to treat broader challenges caused by the pandemic?)
- Travel is made hard if not impossible. You are not supposed to drive to your holiday home in a different state, but you can fly to Mallorca and stay in a hotel,... go figure.
- You can work but everything that builds energy (sports, social events, going out, cultural events, real shopping,..) are cancelled and the economy with it.
- Even though I am in one of the risk groups it will be many months before I will get the chance to get vaccinated.

My **observations** from politics these days – particularly when looking at Germany and the USA – are not rules to emulate but thought starters:

- Behavior is one of the hardest things to change
- Effort and can-do attitude get results
- Elbows ruffle feathers but are accepted in the end - still
- Mistakes are forgiven if corrected swiftly and earnestly
- Courage to relook at rules and processes shows new ways

We know all this – but what are we doing about it?

Just as one example: What are we doing to prevent growing “**SOCIAL DISTANCING**” in our workforce (e.g., working vs. on furlough) and in our society (e.g., believers vs. non-believers, vaccinated vs non-vaccinated)?

Make it a fabulous (Easter-)Week and: think positive, stay (COVID-)negative.

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