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## VON DER LEYEN APOLOGISES TO ITALY BUT BAULKS AT 'CORONABONDS'

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EurActiv (2 April 2020)

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told Italy on Thursday (2 April) that European nations were ready to help it deal with the coronavirus after initially focusing on their own home problems.

But the EU leader stopped short of agreeing to Rome's request for the bloc to start issuing joint debt – dubbed coronabonds – that could let countries such as Italy address the crisis more cheaply.

Today Europe is mobilising alongside Italy. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case, von der Leyen wrote in Italy's La Repubblica newspaper.

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