

**Question for written answer E-001157/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Extraordinary funds for advanced preparedness measures to address the COVID-19 emergency

According to what are probably very conservative government estimates, roughly 78 000 people worldwide have been infected with the coronavirus COVID-19, and 53 cases have been confirmed in Europe, a number which is increasing steadily.

The WHO has stated that the basic reproduction number (R0) is between 1.4 and 2.5 and the mortality rate is roughly 3%.

Whole parts of the African continent would have no way of dealing with an epidemic.

The sum of EUR 10 million announced on 31 January 2020 to fund research into COVID-19 under the Horizon 2020 programme is not commensurate with the need for a short- and medium-term containment strategy.

Overcrowding in intensive care units could lead indirectly to an increase in the mortality rate by limiting access to vital treatment for patients suffering from other conditions.

Advanced preparedness measures include: building up stocks of medicines, breathing apparatus and medical instruments; increasing supplies of personal protective equipment, such as masks and overalls; assessing the scope for setting up new intensive care units.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following question as a matter of urgency:

Does it intend to make extraordinary funds available to help the Member States take advanced preparedness measures?