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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.6.2020)

The Commission is working with Member States and international partners on all fronts to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak. The first priority is to guarantee the health and safety of everyone: protecting people from the spread of the virus, supporting the health systems and health workers while maintaining the flow of goods¹, mitigating the effects on the economy² and helping people get back to their homes.

Decisions are guided by scientific evidence. A new advisory panel of specialists has been created specifically on COVID-19, working with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Medicines Agency to guide the Commission. The Commission is also funding research on potential COVID-19 vaccine and treatments³.

The Commission is also in contact with the pharmaceutical and medical devices industry to ensure that medicines, equipment and testing kits are available to the Member States who need them. Together with many Member States, the Commission has launched joint procurement tenders for essential medical and protective equipment and has created the first ever rescEU stockpile⁴.

The Commission has set up a COVID-19 website⁵ to keep everyone updated about the evolution of the disease in the EU and informed of the comprehensive response by the Commission.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_468

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_459

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response_en