

**Question for written answer E-000550/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of coronavirus

Tens of millions of people in China are potentially at risk from the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) epidemic, which, according to initial estimates by epidemiological experts, is expected to last for months, this being the best-case scenario.

Just over 5 000 cases have been officially reported in China and around 50 elsewhere, claiming 132 lives to date.

In addition, the outbreak and spread of this new virus have already begun to disrupt global economic and trade balances. International oil prices have already taken a hit from falling demand, a trend expected to continue in the immediate future as many economic activities grind to a halt and people stay away from work following the Chinese New Year festivities for fear of infection.

In view of this:

What countermeasures will the Commission take with a view to ensuring public safety, containing the coronavirus and addressing the resulting financial consequences?