

Question for written answer E-001133/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Coronavirus: Online speculation in sanitary products

Article 169 TFEU stipulates that 'In order to promote the interests of consumers and to ensure a high level of consumer protection, the Union shall contribute to protecting the health, safety [...] of consumers'.

In response to the increase in the number of infections with Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Italian Government has declared a state of emergency on grounds of health, leading to panic buying of numerous items such as masks and sanitisers.

There have been many rises in the prices of sanitary products quoted on the e-commerce portals best known to the public. Speculation is occurring on a grand scale here, with price rises ranging from +650% to +1 700%.

Faced with this situation, Codacons, the coordinating body for associations for the protection of the environment and the rights of users and consumers, has issued a statement protesting about these unjustified price rises.

Can the Commission therefore state what it intends to do to monitor and stem any speculation involved in online sales of products associated with the health emergency, thus protecting citizens and ensuring that they can access preventive products as normal?