

Question for written answer E-001156/2020
to the Council
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: EU plan to combat 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 67 cases have been confirmed in Europe, a number which is increasing steadily.

The WHO has stated that the basic reproduction number (R_0) 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.

Can the Council therefore answer the following questions:

1. Does it not see a pressing need to use its transnational powers to draw up an EU plan to combat the health emergency caused by COVID-19?
2. Would it consider temporarily suspending the Schengen Treaty?