

**Question for written answer E-001274/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Dino Giarrusso (NI)

Subject: Coronavirus epidemic

The coronavirus emergency has now reached Europe. Italy's response has been exemplary, channelling resources and efforts into protecting the public, carrying out some 9000 swab tests thus far to detect the virus and promptly isolating areas where a new outbreak might occur.

Scaremongering, which paradoxically has been fostered by Italy's focus on prevention, may have very serious economic and social consequences, with potential losses of earnings in all sectors of the economy, in particular the tourism and agri-food industries.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it intend to draw up a single prevention protocol for all the Member States?
2. Does it also not see a pressing need to set up a communication task force to counter unfounded public fears linked to the broadcast of uninformed news reports in recent days, with potentially very dangerous results?