

**Question for written answer E-001879/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Kris Peeters (PPE)

Subject: Discrimination against Belgian businesses by the Netherlands with regard to Coronavirus support measures

In the context of the Corona crisis, the Netherlands Government is introducing a temporary, more flexible scheme to support self-employed entrepreneurs so that they can continue their businesses. The scheme is being implemented by municipal authorities. For a period of three months, self-employed entrepreneurs can obtain supplementary income support under an expedited procedure to help them to survive. This will supplement their income, bringing it up to the minimum subsistence level, and will not have to be repaid. Support under this temporary scheme is also possible in the form of a loan for operating capital, at a reduced interest rate.

However, the municipality of Maastricht, for example, imposes the condition that the business must be run by a Netherlands national. We have heard, for example, from Belgian managers who run businesses in the Netherlands but live in Belgium that they are not eligible for support under this scheme.

1. Is this situation not contrary to the EU principle that discrimination is prohibited?
2. Ought these Dutch municipalities to make the support measures available to all businesses in their territory, irrespective of the nationality of the manager?
3. What measures will the Commission take if this is contrary to the principle of non-discrimination?