

**Question for written answer E-001880/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: Exceptional derogation to allow imports of protective masks without the CE label

Faced with the COVID-19 global coronavirus pandemic which has struck Europe particularly severely, in particular because of the lack of preparedness, amateurism and dogmatism of some EU governments and political leaders, the most urgent issue is to protect our compatriots, but also healthcare workers.

Five healthcare workers have already lost their lives and several hundred more have tested positive for COVID-19 in France; they are today on the front line without any means of protection.

All Member States, and particularly France and Italy, are facing a shortage of protective masks.

Given the contagiousness of COVID-19 and the insufficient stocks of CE-marked masks meeting the requirements set out in standard EN 14683, a number of medical organisations are insisting that they should be able, as an exceptional measure, to procure masks that do not meet European standards, but do meet the needs of healthcare staff during the pandemic.

In view of the health emergency and the risk of a significant number of deaths among healthcare workers, can the Commission remove the obstacles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of 9 July 2008 to facilitate the import of and circulation within the Union of masks which do not bear the CE label?