

Question for written answer E-001886/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Distribution of masks to healthcare workers in the context of the coronavirus pandemic in the Grand Est region and exemption from the General Data Protection Regulation

So far, some 1 500 people have died in France because of the coronavirus outbreak. The number of deaths in that country doubles every three days. Due to the French government's lack of preparation, France is experiencing a shortage of masks, and healthcare professionals complain about the risks involved for themselves and for the population as a whole.

The Grand Est region has ordered five million masks, which should be delivered soon. In order to distribute these masks, the regional authorities plan to contact the Regional Union of Health Professionals, which needs a list of health professionals (doctors in private medical practice, SOS Médecins, homes for dependent elderly persons ...) . However, the Primary Health Insurance Fund has allegedly refused to provide this list, citing Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

Will the Commission inform the authorities and organisations concerned whether the COVID-19 pandemic is a case allowing derogations from the European GDPR, for example under Article 23 (2) or another provision, to allow the rapid distribution of masks and medical equipment?