

**Question for written answer E-001927/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ensuring a common EU health policy

The ever-worsening of COVID-19 pandemic has proved that central planning in the field of health and cooperation between Member States on the basis of solidarity are urgently needed for maximum effectiveness in safeguarding human life and health.

Article 168 TFEU ¹ and Article 5 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ² already stipulate that a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities.

However, the health sector is not the subject of a major EU policy in the sense that there is, as yet, no common health policy. Member States have primary responsibility for the organisation and delivery of health and medical services, while EU policy plays only a complementary role ³.

On the basis of the new situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, will the Commission say:

1. Will it make the health sector a major area of EU policy-making and adopt a common EU health policy? If so, what steps will it take to bring this about?
2. How does it assess and how will it deal effectively with the unilateral actions of some Member States, including the ban on exports of medical supplies to other countries?

¹ OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 1-388.

² OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 389-405.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/overview_en, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/public_health.html?locale=el&root_default=SUM_1_CODED%3D29.