

**Question for written answer E-001953/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Harmonised protocol on the diagnosis and determination of causes of death in the context of pandemics at EU level

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing the most serious health crisis in the history of the EU, many epidemiology experts warn that in Europe not all coronavirus deaths are being recorded correctly owing to methodological differences between Member States.

Thus, whilst Italy includes all patients in its coronavirus victims register who test positive and die, regardless of other details in their medical history, in France deaths outside of hospitals are not recorded in statistics and in Spain people who die in nursing homes or at home are not counted if they have not been tested.

These differences make death tolls unreliable, which can lead to deficiencies in determining the extent and severity of the pandemic and delay corrective action.

In light of the above:

Does the Commission intend to implement a harmonised protocol on the diagnosis and determination of causes of death in the context of pandemics at EU level?