

**Question for written answer E-002094/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Elderly in nursing homes sitting ducks for coronavirus - We must protect them

According to an estimate given on Sunday 5 April 2020 by France's Director-General for Health, 2 189 people have died of COVID-19 in the country's nursing homes since the start of the crisis.

This estimate does not tell the full story, as official statistics often exclude the elderly who succumb to the virus in such establishments or in their own homes.

There is clearly something amiss in France's action plan if it overlooks the elderly and their living environment, despite the high risk of infection and mortality.

On account of a shortage of medical equipment caused by poor planning on the part of some European governments, hospitals are in disaster-response mode and depriving older patients of essential urgent care.

Unfortunately, our society all too often fails to respect the human rights of its elders, perceiving them as burdensome.

How, in the current context outlined above and moving forward, does the Commission intend to safeguard the right of the elderly to lead a life of dignity in accordance with Article 25 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?