

**Question for written answer E-002296/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët** (ID)

Subject: Unfounded attacks on Taiwan by the Head of the WHO

The Taiwanese authorities notified the World Health Organization (WHO) at the end of December 2019 of their firm belief that the COVID-19 virus was being spread by human-to-human transmission. However, the WHO continued to hold to the opposite official view held by Peking until 14 January. It was not until 30 January that the WHO's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus finally declared a 'public health emergency of international concern'. The WHO's governing bodies first denied that Taiwan had warned them of the danger, then were forced to admit this was a lie. In an attempt to discredit Taiwan, which has however been remarkably efficient in controlling the pandemic, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus even claimed he had been subjected to racist comments by the Taiwanese, another lie. Under the 'one China' policy, the European Union's relations with Taiwan to trade are limited to trade. The EU does, however, support Taiwan's participation in international organisations compatible with its status. Lastly, EU countries contribute significantly to WHO funding.

In these circumstances, will the Commission make an official statement expressing its disapproval of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' conduct and his attacks on Taiwan?