Question for written answer E-002655/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Strengthening the EU-level tool to screen foreign direct investment

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed gaps in the EU’s supply chain and is a reminder that we need to prioritise our strategic sovereignty in areas such as medical products or food.

As a result, on 25 March 2020, the Commission published a set of guidelines to speed up the implementation of a screening tool for foreign direct investment in order to preserve EU companies and critical assets that could be weakened by the crisis. The new European Investment Screening Mechanism will be set up on 11 October. It is based on a system of information exchange between the Member States and the Commission, and is an opportunity for them to deliver opinions or comment on certain transactions.

However, the current crisis shows that we need to be even more vigilant as far as European strategic sectors and ensuring economic sovereignty are concerned.

Can the Commission clearly explain:

1. Which measures will be adopted to strengthen this European Investment Screening Mechanism?
2. Which strategic sectors, such as the manufacture of medical equipment, research into health or food, are covered by this mechanism?