

**Question for written answer E-002741/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Mathilde Androuët

Subject: Additional threat to French Guiana from coronavirus pandemic in Brazil

Under Articles 349 and 355 TFEU, French Guiana, one of the nine outermost regions (OMR) of the Union, is entitled to EU cohesion funding. Despite being classified as one of the 'less developed regions' for the period 2014-2020, it also has many advantages. It is strategically situated in an area that has great potential, being rich in biodiversity. Its aerospace industry is also a major asset, Kourou being the principal EU spaceport for the launching of rockets and satellites. However, French Guiana is afflicted with very high crime rates owing to massive illegal immigration that is difficult to stem, since it shares a 520-km border with Suriname and a 700-km border with Brazil, where the political situation is becoming increasingly explosive with the onset of the epidemic. This constitutes a major threat to the economy and security of French Guiana, as well as aggravating the migration issue.

In view of the current crisis, would the Commission be in favour of stepping up aid to French Guiana, bearing in mind that additional European regional development funding (the 'Federup' package) is already being earmarked for each of the OMRs?