

**Question for written answer E-002755/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Christine Anderson, Lars Patrick Berg

Subject: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic: part two

Following on from our earlier Written Question(E002754/2020), contradictory information surrounding the coronavirus pandemic is also circulating in Member States.

For example, several weeks ago the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) pointed out that face masks were ineffective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. However, the same institution now recommends their use.

There are also differences in the reported reproduction rate of the virus. For example, Vice-President of the German Bundestag Wolfgang Kubicki accused the RKI's figures of being 'more likely to be politically motivated, rather than scientifically sound'.

An increasing number of courts have lifted far-reaching coronavirus restrictions because of their illegality. We have seen such cases in Czechia and, most recently, the German state of Saarland.

Governments are clearly interpreting these ambiguities and contradictions to their advantage, and are using them to justify drastic restrictions on citizens' fundamental rights.

1. Will the Commission investigate, in a timely manner, the spread and use of disinformation that deprives people in the EU of their fundamental rights?
2. What view does it take on the fact that external institutions, such as the RKI, are making decisions instead of politicians?
3. Can it comment on the fact that the German Government overstated their infection figures, citing 30 % more cases, at the Federal-Länder Summit ¹ ?

¹ <https://www.rtl.de/cms/corona-panne-angela-merkel-jens-spahn-sprachen-von-40-000-statt-29-000-infizierten-4534787.html>