

**Question for written answer E-003057/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Health protection protocol for seasonal workers

The lockdown to halt the spread of COVID-19, resulting in border closures and restrictions on movement imposed by Member States, has caused a labour shortage on many farms, as seasonal workers are in short supply.

As this threatened the harvesting of many crops, the Commission asked Member States to establish procedures to make it easier for workers from third countries to enter the EU safely, which has in some way alleviated the problem.

However, the lack of safety protocols on farms means that many workers are harvesting crops without adequate safety equipment, often breaking social distancing rules during the day, during breaks and possibly while living in shared accommodation.

A safety protocol is urgently needed to inform farm owners and farmhands of their obligations, with guidelines to ensure that farms continue to operate as normal while protecting workers.

In light of the above:

Does the Commission have any plans to introduce a protocol which harmonises health protection measures for farmhands in the context of COVID-19?