

**Question for written answer E-003123/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Participation in the centralised procurement of masks organised by the European Commission

In light of the health crisis caused by COVID-19, as part of the coordinated response to combat the pandemic, the European Commission has provided the Member States with a mechanism for the centralised procurement of health supplies and equipment, such as personal protection equipment (PPE), protective masks and ventilators.

Thus, since mid-March, Member States have been able to submit requests directly to the Commission for assistance in securing such medical supplies.

On 8 May 2020, Commissioner Kyriakides announced the centralised purchase which would allow 1.5 million masks to be distributed to 18 European countries: Austria, Poland, Malta, Cyprus, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary in addition to the United Kingdom. Spain is not among the list of countries provided by the Commissioner.

1. Can the Commission confirm that Spain did indeed decide not to participate in this centralised procurement of medical supplies at European level?
2. Given the extremely high mortality rate caused by COVID-19 in Europe, in particular in Spain, what is the Commission's assessment of the fact that Spain is not participating in this European health coordination measure?