Question for written answer E-003377/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Thierry Mariani (ID)

Subject: Impact of COVID-19 on the hotel and catering sector

The hotel and catering sector has been hit very hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures. Many of the insurance policies taken out by professionals in the sector make no mention of or contain only ambiguous wording on the issue of the systemic risk that is a side-effect of the pandemic. It is clear, however, that the losses of operating revenue suffered by the industry are the result of the lockdown. In France, the State has responded by agreeing to suspend certain taxes. At the same time, according to the Union des métiers et des industries de l’hôtellerie (UMIH - Union of Hotel Professions and Industries) 98% of claims made to insurers have been turned down ¹. Insurance law must remain a national matter. However, the main European insurance companies will benefit in one way or another from the recovery and consolidation plans drawn up by the Commission.

There is a clear need, therefore, for the EU to work with the Member States to ensure that the granting of assistance to insurance companies is made conditional on the role the latter play in the crisis. Compensation for losses of operating revenue will be a key element in the recovery. In that connection, the catering sector deserves particular support, because it gets money circulating in the real economy.

Is the Commission working with the Member States to encourage insurance companies to cover losses of operating revenue in the hotel and catering sector?