

**Question for written answer E-003460/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Freelance interpreters

Freelance interpreters provide an important service in terms of the effective functioning of the European institutions. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, their income has been adversely impacted, and as a result they have been requesting consultations with the interpretation services since the end of March.

On 26 May 2020, following the meeting with their Negotiating Delegation, the interpretation services of Parliament and the Commission presented what is considered to be a final offer to freelance interpreters: an inadequate 'special' or 'deferral' contract of EUR 1 300 by way of compensation.

In this case, the freelance interpreters' representative entities were not given the opportunity to discuss the issue and provide their contribution to arrive at an acceptable offer that sufficiently compensates for the decrease in income.

This approach contradicts the message of solidarity that is being sent out both by Parliament and the Commission in the current challenging situation.

1. Could the Commission explain how the proposed compensation has been calculated?
2. Is the Commission ready to hold further discussions on this issue so that an acceptable agreement can be reached?
3. Can the Commission clarify how the use of all official languages of the EU is being protected through its approach?