

**Question for written answer E-003527/2020/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**José Ramón Bauzá Díaz (Renew)**

**Subject:** Management of European aid to fight COVID-19 in Nicaragua

Nicaragua is one of the countries which is struggling the most to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. After months of playing down the severity of the illness, the Ortega and Murillo regime has resorted to 'express funerals' during the hours of darkness and to counting cases which have clear signs of coronavirus as 'atypical pneumonia'. The latest attempt to conceal the scale of the pandemic in Nicaragua consists in the dismissal of doctors who are critical of the way in which the regime is managing the crisis.

The European Union recently announced a considerable economic package to assist Nicaragua in its fight against COVID-19 but, given the poor management of the health crisis by the authorities and the government's propaganda, which holds the individual sanctions imposed by the EU responsible for the deficient response of the State, the following questions arise:

1. What measures does the Commission plan on adopting to ensure that the funds reach the Nicaraguan people directly, without passing through the hands of the government?
2. How is the aid provided by the Commission to fight COVID-19 being communicated?
3. How is the disinformation on the part of the government, which blames the EU for the worsening of the pandemic in Nicaragua, being countered?