

**Question for written answer E-003529/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Madrid COVID-19 protocol – triage

According to revelations from *infoLibre*, on 18 March 2020 the regional government of Madrid circulated to all their retirement homes a protocol with the exclusion criteria for referring patients to hospital in the context of COVID-19, excluding the seriously ill and persons with mental or physical disabilities. Between 25 and 30 March, 1 364 residents of Madrid retirement homes died. Only 13 % of these were taken to hospital. Triage clearly goes against the principles of equality before the law and non-discrimination laid down in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Articles 20 and 21) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Article 5). Furthermore, triage contravenes everyone's right to life (Article 2 of the Charter) – regardless of age or disability. As the CRPD states, Member States have committed to taking 'all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including [...] humanitarian emergencies' (Article 11).

1. Is the Commission aware of triage practices in other Spanish regions or Member States?
2. Has it taken further action to ensure full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so as to prevent this discriminatory triage in health systems?