

**Question for written answer E-004157/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tomislav Sokol (PPE)

Subject: Stocks of Remdesivir as a COVID-19 treatment

Remdesivir was originally developed as a medicine to treat Ebola but failed to prove effective. However, further research and clinical trials have shown that it is effective in treating hospitalised patients displaying COVID-19 symptoms. It should be noted that this medicine is manufactured and patented by US-based Gilead Sciences, giving it a monopoly as the only manufacturer. According to media reports, the United States has bought up almost all of the American manufacturer's stocks of the medicine for the next three months, leaving none for Europe or the rest of the world.¹ Against that background:

1. How does the Commission plan to react to this move by the United States?
2. What information does the European Commission have about possible COVID-19 treatments in Europe?
3. What are the European Commission's next steps in the fight against COVID-19?

¹ Source: 'US secures world stock of key Covid-19 drug remdesivir', <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/30/us-buys-up-world-stock-of-key-covid-19-drug>, accessed 1 July 2020.