Question for written answer E-004560/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Remdesivir

On 3 July 2020, Remdesivir became the first drug to obtain conditional marketing authorisation to treat COVID-19. This authorisation facilitates early access to medicines in public health emergencies, such as a pandemic.

On 28 July 2020, the Commission signed an agreement with the pharmaceutical company Gilead to secure the availability of therapeutic doses of Veklury (brand name for Remdesivir). Veklury was the first drug authorised at EU level to treat COVID-19. The Commission's communication of 29 July 2020 states that batches of the medicine will be made available to EU Member States from the beginning of August to meet the most urgent medical needs.

It is set out that the Commission's Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) will finance the procurement of doses amounting to EUR 63 million. This will provide treatment for around 30 000 patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19. This will help meet immediate needs in the coming months, while ensuring a fair distribution at EU level based on an allocation key informed by European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) recommendations.

1. Could the Commission provide more details on the basis on which the allocation key will be determined, and which ECDC guidelines will determine the criterion of the proper and fair distribution at EU level?

2. How will the ECDC guidelines be binding on the Commission, and what will the Commission’s coordinating and support role be throughout the process?