

**Question for written answer E-004714/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: China's provision of masks and Chinese interests in Europe

According to an article in *Le Monde* dated 6 July 2020, the Chinese authorities have favoured certain local authorities in France with which it is 'friendly' for the distribution of masks as part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic ¹.

The local authorities of the 13th district of Paris, and those of Nancy and Strasbourg, are reported to be among those benefiting from these 'selective distributions', in respect of which the French intelligence services (the General Directorate of Internal Security, the Central Territorial Intelligence Service and the General Directorate of External Security) are said to have obtained intelligence ².

Moreover, the representative of the 7th congressional district of Tennessee at the American House of Representatives, Mark Green, accused China of making the provision of masks conditional upon allowing the Chinese operator Huawei to deploy 5G in Europe ³.

Does the Commission intend to verify the veracity of these claims with the relevant Chinese authorities?

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/07/06/le-traitement-de-faveur-des-amis-francais-de-la-chine-face-au-covid-19_6045296_3224.html

² 'According to French intelligence, the Chinese Ambassador to Paris and the Chinese consulates were instructed, at the height of the pandemic, to favour "their French friends" when distributing masks and other material.'

³ <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/apr/6/mark-green-chinese-made-medical-supplies-france-co/>