

**Question for written answer E-000341/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Commission support for Member States concerning accelerated testing for COVID-19

The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of 19 January 2021 entitled 'A united front to beat COVID-19' states that effective testing plays a key role in limiting the spread of the virus by providing key information for contact tracing as well as broader information trends. Testing also facilitates the free movement of people and the smooth functioning of the internal market.

The Commission goes into detail on the issue of RT-PCR tests, which remain the so-called gold standard of testing, but nevertheless recommends broadly expanding the use of rapid antigen tests (RATs).

Moreover, lateral flow antigen tests are intended for people who do not have any symptoms, they can be carried out more quickly, and they usually give results within 30 minutes without requiring laboratory analysis.

1. How does the Commission envisage providing additional support to Member States who should update their testing strategies based on the 18 November 2020 guidelines to include the use of rapid antigen tests by developing guidelines on the use of these tests? Will this additional funding come from the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII)?
2. How will the Commission and its agencies support Member States as they implement its recommendations through the agreed Council Recommendation of 18 December 2020 on a common framework for the use, validation and mutual recognition of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in the EU?