

**Question for written answer E-000449/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Francesca Donato (ID)**

Subject: COVID-19 immunity

According to research findings published in Nature magazine<sup>1</sup>, those who recover from the SarsCov2 virus may remain immune for at least six months, with a rapid and effective response in case of reinfection<sup>2</sup>.

A study by Monash University in Australia, published in Science Immunology<sup>3</sup>, also confirms that those recovering from the coronavirus should remain immune to it for at least eight months. According to scientists, specific memory B cells within the immune system are able to 'recall' infection and trigger a protective immune response through rapid antibody production if exposed to it again.

Fears of reinfection are excessive, given that this is statistically highly improbable and there is little evidence to suggest possible transmission by those concerned.

In view of these scientific findings, will the Commission take action to facilitate, at least provisionally, the freedom of those who have recovered from COVID 19 to travel, work and engage in social intercourse, exempting them from the repeated testing and quarantines that are otherwise necessary to contain the spread of the disease?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03207-w>.

<sup>2</sup> In this connection, it was established that the number of memory B cells remains unchanged. These cells produce antibodies that are stronger and more resistant to mutations of the spike protein used by the virus to attack human cells.

<sup>3</sup> <https://immunology.sciencemag.org/content/5/54/eabf8891>.