

**Question for written answer E-002203/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**José Gusmão** (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: COVID-19 hotels in Ireland – quarantine or prison?

Anyone arriving into Ireland from a designated country is obliged to quarantine in prison-like conditions by an extortive scheme under which the army frogmarches them from the plane to a hotel, where they are locked up for 12 days, even if Ireland is their place of habitual residence. Confined to their rooms (and only allowed out for 30 minutes each day to exercise) and placed under surveillance, they then face a bill of EUR 1875 at the end of their detention. Aside from being of dubious value for containment purposes, particularly for habitual residents of Ireland, the measure foments the idea that migrants are to blame for the spread of COVID-19, fuelling prejudice. On 11 April, the Commission said it had no objection to EU countries being added to the mandatory quarantine list.

Five days later, it raised ‘concerns in relation to the general principles of EU law, in particular proportionality and non-discrimination’, adding that Ireland could achieve its objective by less restrictive means.

What is the Commission’s final position and what will it do to put an end to this disproportionate violation of fundamental rights and, therefore, the rule of law?