

**Question for written answer E-002558/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Real or sci-fi? An app that can detect coronavirus

Together with collaborators in the United States, the German company Semic RF is preparing to launch an app that identifies the coronavirus by means of a picture taken on a phone. The app has been tested on 70 000 people and has the capacity to process up to 1 million scans per second. Initially, the app has been designed for companies and will be available for a fee, if it gets the go-ahead from the regulatory authorities.

It identifies the virus through a specific inflammation called 'pink eye'. Specialists, together with the company's IT staff, have been able to isolate the shade of pink in the eyes that is specific to coronavirus infection from a range of over 2 million shades. In practice, the user will upload a photograph showing both eyes and receive an answer on the smart phone from which the picture was sent.

The test is 95% accurate. If this app proves to be so accurate, to what extent can its purchase and use at European level help in testing the population at major events, such as concerts, festivals and other cultural events involving large masses of people?