

**Question for written answer E-003078/2021  
to the Commission  
Rule 138  
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)**

Subject: Antibody research

The Commission is proposing a strong multilateral trade response to the COVID-19 crisis, while on the other hand it is seeking to implement research and innovation projects and initiatives to counter the spread of the coronavirus.

Since the early days of the pandemic, scientists have been working to develop antibodies to treat COVID-19. At present, several such antibodies are in late-stage clinical trials and some have been approved for emergency use by the relevant regulatory agencies (for example, in the United States). Despite the belief that antibody treatment is not very popular because the available antibodies are administered intravenously rather than directly into the respiratory tract, where the virus is mainly present, there is a strong correlation in cutting-edge research suggesting that a nose spray containing antibodies can provide protection against COVID-19 and be used for treatment.

In September 2020, the Commission announced the first in a series of new projects and the extension of ongoing projects to address the pandemic, in particular those relating to clinical research (e.g. ATAC, MANCO and CoroNAb).

With a view to the long-term fight against the pandemic, does the Commission plan to create further funding instruments and broad scientific initiatives on antibody research, in particular research that would look at antibody response to new SARS-CoV-2 variants?