

**Question for written answer E-003575/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: Scientific advice at the EU level during the COVID-19 pandemic

Science is informing the policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In certain cases, governments have even devolved much of the responsibility for communicating and explaining their choices to scientific experts. Given the transnational nature of the pandemic, EU cooperation on science advice is critical to achieve a coordinated response to the crisis and optimise scientific advice across the Member States.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Given that its Scientific Advisory Mechanism was set up to provide independent scientific advice to the Commission and strengthen the link between policymaking and scientific advice, how exactly has it been used in the context of COVID-19?
2. Has the European Group on Ethics been asked to provide ethical guidance on issues of particular ethical gravity such as the issuing of vaccination certificates, compulsory vaccination and testing during the COVID-19 pandemic? What have its main findings and recommendations been during this critical period?
3. Will the Commission consider launching an independent inquiry regarding the shortcomings of scientific advice and ethical advice mechanisms during the last 18 months, the level of EU preparedness and ability of the current crisis management structures for large-scale emergencies at EU level to respond to the COVID-19 crisis?