

**Question for written answer E-005037/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Use of medicines to treat COVID-19 and the risk of antimicrobial resistance

In its April 2019 report on 'Securing the future from drug-resistant infections', the WHO defined antimicrobial resistance as one of the biggest challenges facing modern medicine. In January 2020, the WHO again identified antimicrobial resistance as the seventh most urgent public health challenge out of the 10 listed. It is estimated that between 2015 and 2050, around 2.4 million people in developed countries could die unless sustained efforts are made to curb antimicrobial resistance. However, this problem is being exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The increasing need to use medicines to treat COVID-19 means there is a higher risk of accelerating the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. The use of anti-parasitic, antiviral, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory medicines to prevent secondary infections in COVID-19 patients during this prolonged pandemic may inevitably lead to future complications and intensify antimicrobial resistance.

Given that most medication used to treat the relevant pathogens may not only increase resistance in COVID-19 treatment, but also in the treatment of other bacterial and viral infections, will the Commission (or its agencies and other bodies) carry out an assessment of how the use of medicines to treat COVID-19 impacts the development of antimicrobial resistance?