

**Question for written answer E-000389/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Discrepancies in the handling of the period of validity of recovery certificates

Under Regulation (EU) 2021/953 on the EU Digital COVID Certificate, recovery certificates shall be valid for a maximum of 180 days after the date of the first NAAT test result. However, the revised Council Recommendations of 25 January 2022 on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic state that 'at least within the first 180 days of the first positive NAAT test', holders of such recovery certificates 'should also be exempted from additional travel restrictions for that period'.

Some Member States have now introduce shortened validity periods for recovery certificates (for example Germany: 3 months, Belgium: 5 months, etc.), which in practice restricts the free movement of EU citizens and is particularly problematic in border regions. This last factor is also not in line with the general principle of the revised Council Recommendation that Member States should pay particular attention to the specificities of border regions.

How can the Commission therefore ensure that the period of validity of recovery certificates is applied more uniformly, thus taking better account of the specificities of border regions?