

**Question for written answer E-000491/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jaak Madison (ID), Filip De Man (ID), Laura Huhtasaari (ID), Virginie Joron (ID), Roman Haider (ID), Gunnar Beck (ID), Hermann Tertsch (ECR), Jean-Paul Garraud (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID), Angel Dzhambazki (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Nicolaus Fest (ID)

Subject: Extension of the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation

On 14 June 2021, the Council and Parliament adopted Regulation (EU) 2021/953 on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 19 January 2022, UK Prime Minister Johnson announced that the wearing of masks will no longer be mandated in the UK and that people will no longer be required to present a digital COVID certificate. This move once again proves that the UK made the right decision to leave the EU, since it is now able to guarantee individual freedoms without dealing with the bureaucracy of the EU. The UK was also able to administer vaccines much earlier and much faster, while EU Member States had to wait for approval from the European Medicines Agency and for the Commission to get its negotiating act together.

1. Does the Commission intend to propose that the application of the regulation be extended beyond 30 June 2022, as per Article 16 thereof?
2. Does the Commission agree that the UK was able to respond much more quickly to changes in the epidemiological situation than the EU Member States, who had to wait for the Commission and the European Medicines Agency to take bureaucratic decisions?