

**Question for written answer E-000558/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: Prison workers and risk of COVID-19 infection

In early January 2022, almost 1 500 prison officers and staff in Italian prisons contracted COVID-19, and for some this had tragic consequences. This is an alarming statistic, when taken in combination with the shortage of FFP2 masks repeatedly reported in Italian prisons.

In order to stop the spread of the virus, several prisons have created COVID centres within their walls for prisoners testing positive. Given the recent increase in infections, this tactic would not appear to have worked. But that is not all. While prisoners are tested regularly, besides being provided with complete medical care, the same is not true for prison workers, who have to pay for their tests at external healthcare centres.

Article 31 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights lays down that every worker has the right to working conditions which respect his or her health, safety and dignity, but there is growing concern among prison workers that they will catch the virus at work.

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

1. Is it aware of this situation?
2. What steps will it take to protect prison workers across Europe, who every day risk falling ill with COVID at work?