

**Question for written answer E-000981/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Are laboratories that handle dangerous viruses completely secure

Taking into account that the Wuhan Institute of Virology is suspected of having leaked the virus that caused COVID-19, it would be fair to state that the conditions at 'P4' laboratories, which are authorised to cultivate and study dangerous pathogens, do not always seem ideal.

The number of incidents at these laboratories is on the rise:

- In 2001, in Fort Detrick (US), a researcher was suspected of sending anthrax-laced letters that caused 5 deaths;
- In 2014, in Atlanta (US), tubes containing Ebola were mistakenly sent to a less secure laboratory;
- In 2016, in Lyon (France), a homeless person managed to enter the premises of the Jean Mérieux laboratory;
- In 2019, in Novosibirsk (Russia), a fire destroyed 30 m² of the Vektor laboratory.

What is more, P4 laboratories house viruses such as anthrax, Ebola, smallpox and highly pathogenic influenzas. If we are to prevent pandemics that could turn out to be even more fatal than the one caused by COVID-19, they need to be completely secure.

1. Does the Commission believe that the P4 laboratories in the EU are sufficiently secure?
2. Does the Commission provide Member States with financial and technical support to safeguard and improve security conditions?