

**Question for written answer E-001621/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU citizens and the new lockdown in China

China has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks. To address this rapid increase in infections, the Chinese authorities have taken a set of measures that severely restrict the personal freedom of the inhabitants of the cities most affected, in particular Shanghai.

Despite the silence and denials of the Beijing authorities, pictures from China show a situation in which the inhabitants of 'infected' urban settlements are either forced to stay at home or are 'concentrated' in large hangars, where living conditions are poor. The military and police are patrolling the streets, including with drones and robots, preventing any violation of lockdown and punishing anyone who tries to leave home. In addition to this, food is being rationed.

There are many EU citizens, including Italians, among the thousands of people forced to stay in their homes. They have found themselves, overnight, in what amounts to isolation, or have been forced to move to quarantine centres.

In view of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it is monitoring the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in China and how it views the situation, even if the government is saying nothing;
2. How it can help EU citizens who are subject to these restrictive measures, if needed, including by way of repatriation?