

Question for written answer E-003494/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Possibility for Commission to declare a health emergency in future

The EU has drawn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and reorganised to be better prepared for future health crises. Following the Member States' final decision, cross-border cooperation will be expanded and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) strengthened. The Commission will now, for the first time ever, be able to declare an EU-wide health emergency and thereby steer a coordinated approach to, for example, the purchase and storage of important goods. Production capacities could also be ramped up at short notice.

The agreements give the EU new levers for dealing with health crises occurring in several Member States or the entire Union. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) already had its mandate extended because of the pandemic.

1. What specific consequences will this have for Member States that fail to deliver solid and timely surveillance and data reports at EU level for strategies to be developed to contain outbreaks?
2. What steps does the Commission think need to be taken to improve transparency in the procurement of vaccines?
3. Does it believe that, in the name of increasing cooperation between Member States to swiftly tackle pandemics, EU-wide measures should take precedence over national measures, and that there should be penalties for failures to take action?