

**Question for written answer E-000063/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU response to the arrival of passengers from China: preventing the spread of COVID-19

For over two years, the EU has making huge efforts to tackle the pandemic, which has caused more than a million deaths and major damage to the European economy.

There has been a worrying increase in the number of positive cases in some third countries, including China, which abruptly brought its 'zero COVID-19' policy to an end, causing an explosion of infections in the country.

Italy, France and Spain have recently adopted provisions on the mandatory testing and related sequencing of the virus for all passengers arriving from China and the Swedish Presidency of the Council has called for an integrated political crisis response mechanism meeting.

However, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control considers the introduction of mandatory screening for travellers arriving from China to be unjustified.

Given the foregoing:

1. Will the Commission consider drawing up a European strategy to standardise prevention and screening measures for passengers arriving from China and a coordinated system for monitoring variants at European airports?
2. Will it ask the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to carry out additional checks on positive cases among travellers arriving in Europe from China?

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