

**Question for written answer E-000068/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Spanish Government's lack of prevention and preparedness for the 'triple-demic' of respiratory infections collapsing the national health system

On 15 December 2023, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control urged the EU Member States to strengthen vaccination campaigns and prepare for the possible need to increase emergency department and ICU capacity, as well as to consider a number of public health measures to reduce the impact of respiratory pathogens circulating this winter.

Among other things, it recommended the use of face masks.

In Spain, the 'triple-demic', a combination of flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus, is giving rise to growing concern in healthcare facilities and filling up emergency departments.

Twenty-four days after the EU alert and recommendations were published, the Spanish Government brought together the autonomous communities to put in place appropriate measures.

1. Does the Commission believe that Member States should ensure greater prevention and preparedness, in line with EU recommendations, and does it intend to expand the recommendations and measures in the face of a possible increase in cases, not just in Spain but across the EU?
2. Does it support the need for coordination among administrations to harmonise criteria in advance with a view to preventing a rise in infections and ensuring that healthcare facilities are better prepared?

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