

**Question for oral answer O-000072/2020  
to the Council**

Rule 136

**Pablo Arias Echeverría**

on behalf of the PPE Group

**Subject:** Coordinated measures and common protocols at the EU level regarding transport

In October 2020, the Commission published a recommendation on COVID-19 testing strategies, including the use of rapid antigen tests. Member States also need to take action and coordinate measures.

Recently, the European Council discussed the need to strengthen the Member States' collective efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The members focused on testing, contact tracing policies and vaccines. They agreed that testing and tracing are key to limiting the spread of the virus and will help better control the situation. There was an exchange of views on how to advance a common approach to the mutual recognition, deployment and use of rapid tests, based on the Commission's recommendation on testing strategies presented on 28 October 2020.

It is fair to say that there is a clear need for more coordinated measures and common protocols at the EU level. The different measures, quarantine rules, test requirements and the consequent logistical complications are preventing many people from booking trips that would go ahead if there were more certainty. It is also a matter of increasing safety across the EU.

1. Why has the Council not yet introduced further coordination measures beyond the unified red zone map? Most importantly, does it intend to do so?
2. Does it consider that an EU protocol on tests, quarantine rules and travel requirements is necessary to increase certainty for and the confidence of travellers?

Submitted: 17/11/2020

Lapses: 18/02/2021