

**Question for oral answer O-000073/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 136

**Adrián Vázquez Lázara**

on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs

**Subject:** The importance of civil justice for the post-COVID-19 economic recovery

Civil justice is not on the front line in the response to the current COVID-19 crisis. However, a large number of civil disputes is likely to result from the economic downturn. This is a common pattern in economic downturns and could be observed, for example, after the credit crunch. As a consequence, capital that could otherwise contribute to the economic recovery is tied down in court cases. The speed at which such cases can be resolved is therefore an important factor in the successful recovery of our economies.

During its 2014-2019 term, Parliament adopted two resolutions that included as one of their aims the speeding up of the settlement of civil procedures. One was its resolution of 4 July 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on common minimum standards of civil procedure in the European Union<sup>1</sup> and the other was its resolution of 13 December 2018 with recommendations to the Commission on expedited settlement of commercial disputes<sup>2</sup>.

1. Does the Commission intend to follow up on these two resolutions with legislative proposals in good time to help the economic recovery from the current crisis?
2. What other initiatives does the Commission intend to take within the area of civil justice so as to achieve a faster settlement of commercial disputes?

Submitted: 19/11/2020

Lapses: 20/02/2021

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 334, 19.9.2018, p. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P8\_TA(2018)0519.