Priority question for written answer P-001436/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: In view of the coronavirus crisis, we should be looking to create a new consortium to find a vaccine

Given the urgency of the situation, EU Member States need to work together to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus in Europe and develop a vaccine as quickly as possible. Despite considerable measures having been taken at national level, these are insufficient.

An adequately funded European research consortium needs to be established to find a vaccine, with pharmaceutical laboratories and European research centres encouraged to work together.

1. Does the Commission intend to establish a large consortium to find a vaccine for the Covid-19 virus?

2. Companies and researchers from all Member States must work together to avoid a duplication of efforts and to conduct speedy and effective research. To this end, when will the Commission launch a mission, following the example of the 'Horizon Europe missions', to support research into a vaccine for the virus?

3. Will the Commission be implementing a medium and long-term strategy so that Europe can react with strong measures to counter the economic and social consequences of this crisis? This strategy must take into consideration our value chains, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, our industrial policy in strategic sectors and our dependence on certain supplies.