

**Priority question for written answer P-001579/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Joanna Kopcińska** (ECR)

**Subject:** Action by the Commission in support of conservation measures in the Member States

On 28 February 2020 the Commission issued an invitation to tender for personal protective clothing as part of a wider joint purchase of medical supplies. On 12 March, however, the tender procedure was cancelled because no tenders were received, or all were rejected:  
<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:119976-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>.

In the light of the critical situation in Italy, the development of Covid-19 in Europe, and the need for protective clothing (an issue the Member States have raised on a number of occasions):

1. Why exactly were the bids rejected, and why was procurement procedure 2020/S 051-119976 cancelled?
2. Does the Commission consider the joint procurement mechanism to be sufficient and effective in the current circumstances?
3. What steps other than joint purchasing is the Commission taking to ensure that Member States have access to the equipment they need to counter the Covid-19 epidemic?