Priority question for written answer P-001994/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Restrictions on trade in medical equipment

In response to the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, has issued a decree under which stocks of medical equipment in the country, as well as stocks of such equipment that will be produced in future, are to be requisitioned by the State in order to meet domestic needs in the French health care system. This decision entails a serious restriction of freedom to conduct business and of the functioning of the internal market, and will paralyse supplies of medical equipment in Europe. Apart from the obvious risks of damaging confidence in the internal market and European industry, there is a danger that the decision will damage the capacities of health care systems in the EU as a whole to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. In other words, the impact of President Macron’s decision could be extremely far-reaching.

In the light of the foregoing:

What measures will the Commission take to prevent individual Member States from introducing trade restrictions, such as France’s decision to halt exports of medical equipment, which restrict the functioning of the internal market?