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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is working with Member States and international partners on all fronts to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe and globally.

The Commission is in close contact with industry to ensure that medical devices and testing kits are available to the Member States who need them. The Commission has also launched four joint procurement tenders for essential medical and protective equipment and has created the first ever rescEU stockpile[1] of critical medical equipment.

As to the point on components, the applicable legislation on medical devices[2] does not regulate parts or components unless a medical purpose claim is made. Therefore, the legislation does not allow labelling of components as medical devices, unless they have a medical purpose on their own and the manufacturer claims this.

The medical devices supply chain is a global one, which could mean that a particular device, depending on the components required and its manufacturing process, could have multiple intermediate steps that span across different Member States and in some cases, steps that are conducted outside the EU.

A clearing house has been set up to improve the overview of demand and supply of medical equipment at EU level in order to facilitate matching of Member States' needs with supply. It monitors the market situation and facilitates exchanges between manufacturers and potential suppliers of components. The clearing house is also following up on shortages for ventilators and ventilator components in the short and medium to long term and has set up a structured dialogue with medical industry associations to have a deeper understanding on the supply side.

With the future EU4Health Programme[3] it will be able to build strategic stockpiles of medicines and medical equipment.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476
[2] Council Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning medical devices
[3] https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en