

**Priority question for written answer P-002126/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Export control on components of respiratory ventilators

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need for respiratory ventilators to save lives. Therefore, I welcome the EU joint public procurement of testing kits and respiratory ventilators and the introduction of an export ban on medical equipment to outside the EU.

The rescEU stockpile of medical equipment and efforts to mobilise all sectors of the industry to ramp up the production of ventilators and explore solutions are very positive. Such solutions include reusing retired ventilators and developing new open-source designs.

However, it appears that key components of respiratory ventilators, which are not labelled as 'medical equipment', such as valves, pressure metres (around 1 bar), turbines and sensors, are still being exported to third countries. This is greatly compromising the efforts made by EU industries and is threatening the lives of our citizens. Although half of the world's ventilator producers are based in the EU, prices of the components are growing dangerously, as the market is dominated by speculators and third countries' purchasing officers.

How is the Commission protecting the EU's production of the valves, pressure sensors and turbines needed to produce respiratory ventilators, which are to be used to treat COVID-19 patients in the EU?