Priority question for written answer P-002571/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Request for results of the European political coordination triggered in order to manage the COVID-19 crisis

On 2 March 2020 President von der Leyen announced that the Commission’s crisis coordination mechanism, chaired by Janez Lenarčič, would be activated. In his role as European Emergency Response Coordinator, Commissioner Lenarčič was supposed to synergise the action of all the relevant departments and services of the Commission and of the EU agencies.

The Commission also set up a coronavirus response team whose role was one of political coordination in the response to the pandemic, made up of the commissioners responsible for the most affected policies: from medical to economic affairs, from mobility to transport.

However, citizens in the Member States did not feel the effectiveness of those initiatives, also because they arrived very late in the day, to the extent that President von der Leyen felt the need to apologise to the Italian people.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What tools does it intend to use in order to overstep the powers of the Member States in their spontaneous and unilateral response to reintroduce barriers and borders, which have always been declared unlawful?

2. Within what time frame will it plan the orderly reopening of the borders, followed by the free movement of persons, goods and capital?

3. Is it aware of any cases of discrimination on grounds of nationality (under Article 21(2) ECHR) and any intra-national obstacles in medical and health treatment? If it is, how have these been dealt with?