Priority question for written answer P-004653/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Contact tracing apps

Before the summer, there was an intense debate regarding the use of contact tracing apps to help lift lockdowns and prevent a second wave of COVID-19. Some Member States have already rolled out apps and others will follow soon. However, in the midst of what many now regard as a second wave, it is important to assess the strengths and shortcomings of current apps and their uptake in order to make them even more effective in combating the pandemic.

It is also clear that we need interoperable applications to ensure maximum voluntary uptake of these apps and secure freedom of movement throughout the EU. The voluntary gateway service being set up by the Commission is therefore vital. However, some Member States, such as France and Hungary, risk being excluded because they are not using the technologies offered by Apple and Google.

1.   What solutions has the Commission come up with to ensure that national tracing apps using alternative technologies are not excluded from the gateway system, which will facilitate interoperability?

2.   How long will it take to include those applications?

3.   Does the Commission have any data on the effectiveness and uptake of different Member State apps?