

**Priority question for written answer P-000550/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Elena Lizzi (ID)**

**Subject:** COVID-19 'dark red zone' classification: Commission parameters unfairly penalise regions with a good track record

On 21 January 2021, the Commission proposed the introduction of a 'dark red zone' classification for areas where infection levels are dangerously high, in order to identify and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and variants thereof.

The ECDC has designated the Italian regions of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna for inclusion in the 'dark red' zones, depending on levels of infection.

The Commission suggests tightening restrictions in regions with over 500 infections per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days.

In Italy, this recommended criterion is not being used for regional colour coding purposes since it would penalise those regions that carry out a greater number of tests.

In Italy, Friuli Venezia Giulia is the region carrying out proportionally the largest number of molecular swab tests, which are considered by experts to be the most reliable.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission indicate the reference number of tests per 100 000 inhabitants carried out over the last 14 days, resulting in 500 new positive cases per 100 000 inhabitants, leading to classification as a 'dark red zone'?
2. How will it prevent discrimination against regions such as Friuli Venezia Giulia that have a good track record in terms of the number of swab tests carried out and are showing greater commitment than others to mass screening?
3. Does it consider that data tracking, tracing and monitoring is being done on a uniform basis throughout Europe?