

**Question for written answer E-001665/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Request for European Civil Protection Mechanism assistance to combat the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the gravest disasters of our times. In recent weeks, this scourge, with its epicentre in the European Union, has caused thousands of deaths and has seen restrictions placed on the fundamental rights of millions of European citizens. The EU Member States need European solidarity more than ever in order to save human lives, and this can be provided via the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

1. How many Member States have so far asked for the European Civil Protection Mechanism to be activated?
2. For what purpose have they requested this and for how much in aid?
3. Is the EU in a position to purchase the necessary hardware and equipment to save lives given the shortcomings in Member States' civil protection systems?