

**Priority question for written answer P-001422/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Funds for scientific research into Covid-19

The EU boasts the best science and research programme in the world: Horizon 2020. What is more, the Commission has set up key partnerships with the private sector, particularly the pharmaceutical industry, through its Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI).

At a time when countries such as China and the US already have teams at an advanced stage with regard to the development of vaccines and treatment for Covid-19, the Commission has only just announced an increase in investment for those objectives, which, to date, stand at EUR 10 million.

What is more, the additional investment announced, some EUR 140 million (including EUR 45 million from industry, through the IMI) clearly remains inadequate, given the urgency and scale of the challenge. The US has announced that it will invest around EUR 3 billion in the same goals.

Against this backdrop:

1. Why has the Commission only now decided to increase the amount spent on scientific research intended to develop a vaccine and treatment for Covid-19?
2. Will the announced amount be enough for treatment to be developed and produced in good time?