

**Question for written answer E-005724/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European funding for the Wuhan Institute of Virology

The funding granted to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which is China's leading virology centre and was at the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak, has come, inter alia, from the EU. More particularly, in 2015 and 2019, the Commission outlaid EUR 73 375<sup>1</sup> and EUR 87 436 respectively<sup>2</sup> to the Institute under the Horizon 2020 Programme for promoting research funding. It would appear that the Institute is also receiving an additional EUR 88 433,75<sup>3</sup> for a virus epidemic monitoring project launched on 1 January 2020.

Under the Horizon 2020 Programme, the Commission monitors project participants for up to two years after they receive funding<sup>4</sup>. This is designed to avert risk and prevent fraud.

In view of this, can the Commission state:

1. whether this monitoring and verification mechanism has actually been activated, and what the results were;
2. whether, in the light of the funding contributed to the Institute and the lack of transparency on its part, it considers it necessary to put in place more effective controls in the post-funding phase;
3. why it is continuing to fund these research programmes, given the damage to our internal market resulting from the trade in counterfeit medicines from China referred to in the 2014-2016 report by the European Union Intellectual Property Office?

**Supporter<sup>5</sup>**

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[https://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index\\_en.htm?fbclid=IwAR3j7X5QehGBpOW86z5nuF2Gyt5qbrEVRZoFMxQWUa8hPtHecXrgE\\_732uM](https://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm?fbclid=IwAR3j7X5QehGBpOW86z5nuF2Gyt5qbrEVRZoFMxQWUa8hPtHecXrgE_732uM)

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[https://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index\\_en.htm?fbclid=IwAR3j7X5QehGBpOW86z5nuF2Gyt5qbrEVRZoFMxQWUa8hPtHecXrgE\\_732uM](https://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm?fbclid=IwAR3j7X5QehGBpOW86z5nuF2Gyt5qbrEVRZoFMxQWUa8hPtHecXrgE_732uM)

3 <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/871029>

4 Horizon 2020 Online Manual: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/checks-audits-reviews-investigations\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/grant-management/checks-audits-reviews-investigations_en.htm). Horizon 2020 in brief: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-brief-eu-framework-programme-research-innovation>

5 This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Gianantonio Da Re (ID)