

**Question for oral answer O-000047/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the ID Group

Subject: Stoking fears of using cash is fake news

'Euro banknotes and coins are the only legal tender in the euro area. The legal tender status of euro banknotes and coins is protected by the EU Treaties and secondary EU law. During the COVID-19 outbreak, citizens tended to prefer electronic payment in order to avoid physical contact and to comply with the distance rules', the Commission said in reply to a question submitted by MEPs Christine Anderson and Gunnar Beck ¹.

However, it is ignoring the fact that customers are very often left with no choice at all between card and cash payments. The institutions of the European Union have sadly set a negative example in this respect. Payment by cash is no longer possible.

There are currently no sustainable studies showing that germs or the COVID-19 virus can be spread between humans via bank notes. This overreaction, which is precautionary and has no scientific basis, deprives people in the EU of some of the freedom that the use of cash offers.

1. What efforts will the Commission make to boost confidence in the unconditional use of euro banknotes, including during a pandemic, particularly with reference to the fourth indent of Article 127(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union?
2. As part of its measures to combat disinformation, will the Commission take action against deliberately fabricated information suggesting that using a card reader exposes people to fewer germs?
3. How strong is its commitment to defending the unrestricted use of euro banknotes?

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Lapses: 09/10/2020

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-002507_EN.html