

Question for written answer E-003303/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE)

Subject: Emergency powers: can the Commission bypass the European Parliament?

In certain ‘exceptional’ situations, the Commission may propose measures that are then decided by the governments of the Member States, without the European Parliament being fully involved in their adoption.

This emergency mechanism should not become a standard way of excluding the representatives elected by the citizens.

In recent years, using exceptional instruments in areas such as health, energy, the internal market and defence has led to an increased use of derogation procedures. While these mechanisms may be justified in certain circumstances, they should not lead to long-term weakening of the European Parliament’s role in EU policy-making or to making trivial use of exception procedures.

1. In what specific situations does the Commission consider that it can propose a measure without going through the normal legislative procedure involving the European Parliament, and what objective criteria make it possible to characterise an emergency that warrants use of such a procedure?
2. Does the Commission undertake to explain publicly, for each emergency measure, why Parliament cannot be involved in the decision, by publishing a detailed statement of reasons demonstrating that use of that procedure is necessary and proportionate?
3. Does it agree that these measures should always be limited in time and subject to rapid scrutiny by the European Parliament?

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