

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002971/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(17 July 2025)**

Subject: Pandemic reaction time

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Union provided financial support to Member States facing exceptional circumstances beyond their control.

The World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on 11 March 2020. In response, the EU introduced two major instruments: the SURE instrument, to support Member States in protecting employment, and NextGenerationEU (NGEU), as a broader recovery instrument.

The Commission proposed the SURE instrument on 2 April 2020, 23 days after the outbreak was declared a pandemic, and NGEU on 27 May 2020, 78 days after the pandemic declaration.

In the Commission's view, what is the maximum amount of time, in line with the Treaties, that may elapse between the outbreak of any exceptional crisis and the provision of financial support to respond to that crisis?

Submitted: 17.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(16 September 2025)**

In the emergency context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission swiftly put forward the proposals for the temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) and NextGenerationEU. The subsequent establishment of both instruments required political agreement, which was reached quickly in both cases.

Both the SURE *ex-post* evaluation⁽¹⁾ and the European Court of Auditors Special Report on SURE⁽²⁾ confirm that the Commission reacted quickly and efficiently to the challenge of helping Member States preserve employment and income during the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/about/departments-and-executive-agencies/economic-and-financial-affairs/evaluation-reports-economic-and-financial-affairs-policies-and-spending-activities/ex-post-evaluation-european-instrument-temporary-support-mitigate-unemployment-risks-emergency-sure_en.

⁽²⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR22_28/SR_SURE_EN.pdf.