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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.8.2020)

While there is still no vaccine against COVID-19 available, the current pandemic highlights the importance of not underestimating infectious diseases and the importance of vaccines. Vaccination is one of the most powerful public health tools and a prerequisite for sustainable health systems.

Indeed, one of the actions in the roadmap referred by the Honourable Member is a Commission proposal for a common vaccination card for EU citizens. This proposal is preceded by a feasibility study for the development for such a card, which is currently being carried out via a call for tender[1] and which has as its main purpose to provide options and recommendations for an EU citizens' vaccination card. In light of this, it is premature to provide details on the format and content of such a card.

The responsibility for the definition of vaccination programmes and the organisation of vaccination services lies with Member States. Legislation on vaccination is also a national competence. The Commission supports Member States in maintaining or increasing adequate vaccination coverage rates. In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the Commission is not in a position to make decisions at EU level on whether vaccination should be mandatory, nor linking a future EU citizens' vaccination card to the withdrawal or granting of any rights.

[1] All documents related to the call for tender can be found here: https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=5156