

**Question for written answer E-004459/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Marc Botenga (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Commitment to provide a future COVID-19 vaccine at production cost

Some pharmaceutical companies or their executives have made public commitments to provide a future COVID-19 vaccine at production cost during the pandemic. At a hearing at the US Congress on 21 July 2020, other companies, on the other hand, admitted that they would attempt to make a profit from the vaccine. Profiteering off the back of a pandemic would damage public health and be ethically unacceptable, all the more so considering the huge amounts of public money being used to finance research into and the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

1. Can the Commission confirm that an obligation to provide the vaccine at production cost has been included in all advance purchase agreements that it has concluded or will conclude with pharmaceutical companies with regard to a potential COVID-19 vaccine?
2. In the event that a vaccine remains necessary after the current public health emergency, will that obligation extend beyond the current pandemic?
3. What guarantees does the Commission include in these agreements regarding an independent assessment of the real production cost?