

Question for written answer E-004648/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: EMA recommendations for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available

In recent months, issues concerning the development, production and distribution of new vaccines have dominated the public debate in all Member States of the EU.

The frantic fight for personal protective equipment – including surgical masks, disposable gloves and other protective equipment – has highlighted the need for international cooperation in the future in the fight against COVID-19. We cannot allow the race to develop a vaccine to bring yet more fierce competition between international partners. The global rivalry around developing a vaccine will only prolong the effects of the pandemic, allowing the virus to survive and spread more widely and thus increasing damage to both public health and the economy.

The USA's significant investments in European pharmaceutical companies could result in certain vaccines being made available to US citizens before European citizens. Such a scenario would be difficult to accept and would jeopardise the previously made plans of the Commission and Member States for access to vaccines covering the entire EU block.

1. What are the European Medicines Agency's recommendations to the Commission as regards the aforementioned issue?
2. Have procedures and actions been planned to prevent the uneven distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and to ensure equal access to treatments when they are available?