

**Question for written answer E-005213/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Ville Niinistö** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** How is the EU preparing for the distribution of future COVID-19 vaccines?

At the beginning of the coronavirus crisis, we witnessed a lack of testing capacity and a lack of protective and other necessary healthcare equipment. Due to the closure of European borders, distribution and logistics systems were also paralysed, as healthcare distributors could not get to where they needed to be. In the spring, we were not prepared. Now, as we wait for vaccines to become available, the situation is different. We have at least a few months to get ready and take care of all practical and organisational steps to ensure vaccines are efficiently distributed.

1. How will the Commission coordinate distribution systems with the national authorities to deal with the huge volumes of vaccines that need to reach people in the EU? Some of the vaccines might require special storage and transportation conditions such as ultra-low temperatures, making it more challenging.
2. Once the vaccines are available, what will the speed of deployment be, and is consideration being given to where the vaccines will be administered, given the differences in national legislation? Are we sufficiently engaging with the entire supply chain to ensure all parts are fully prepared?
3. How will the EU and the European Medicines Agency ensure that vaccines are distributed equally, based on health criteria?