Question for written answer E-006104/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Marc Botenga (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Price-setting mechanisms for remdesivir as part of the purchase or procurement
              contracts between the Commission and Gilead Sciences

In June 2020, Gilead Sciences announced that government healthcare programmes would be
charged USD 2 340 per course of remdesivir/Veklury.[1] However, in the agreement between Gilead
and the Commission for the supply of 500 000 remdesivir treatment courses (8 October[2]), the price
was reported to be EUR 2 070, or some USD 2 440 per course of treatment[3]. In its response to my
question E-004458/2020 concerning the cost of remdesivir/Veklury, the Commission states that it
cannot 'comment on the price or the ongoing negotiations[4]'. Given that since then negotiations have
been concluded and Gilead Sciences has issued its own press release, can the Commission:

1.   Explain why, during the negotiations, it was persuaded to pay a higher price than the one initially
     advertised by Gilead Sciences?

2.   If the Commission does not wish to comment on the negotiations themselves, even after they
     have ended, can it at least give details of the mechanism and criteria that were used, before the
     negotiations, to determine the price it was prepared to pay for the drug?

3.   Otherwise, can it say what means the public has at its disposal to check that there has been a
     good use of public funds in this contract worth over EUR one billion?

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[1]   https://www.ft.com/content/4969b0a6-9e70-4135-a703-eac438d8ef50 (https://www.ft.com/content/4969b0a6-
      9e70-4135-a703-eac438d8ef50)
[2]   https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1845
      (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1845)
[3]   https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-remdesivir-idUSKBN26Y25K
      (https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-remdesivir-idUSKBN26Y25K)
[4]   https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004458_EN.html
      (https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004458_EN.html)