Question for written answer E-006512/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: Remdesivir (COVID-19): investigating conflicts of interest concerning remdesivir in the EMA and in Europe

On 8 October 2020, the Commission signed a contract with Gilead Sciences for 500 000 intravenous doses of remdesivir at EUR 2 000 per dose, making a total of EUR 1.035 billion[1]. At the time, Gilead could not have been unaware of the compelling evidence that the molecule in question was ineffective against the mortality caused by Covid-19. According to *Science*[2], Gilead was informed by the WHO[3] on 23 September 2020 of the negative results of a study carried out in 405 hospitals in 30 countries on 11 000 COVID-19 patients[4]. The EU received the information on 9 October 2020. On 14 October 2020, the French Health Ministry told French hospital doctors that they could use remdesivir free of charge[5]. On 26 November 2020, remdesivir was still showing on the EMA website as being authorised[6].

Professor Didier Raoult has denounced the lobbying by Gilead[7].

OLAF investigates fraud against the EU budget, corruption scandals and serious misconduct in the European institutions.

1. Will the Commission ask OLAF to open an investigation into Gilead's falsification, concealment and adulteration of information it provided to the Commission?

2. Will the Commission ask OLAF to open an investigation into breaches[8] or conflicts of interest relating to remdesivir in the relevant EU services and agencies or national authorities?

1 https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-remdesivir-idUSKBN26Y25K
2 https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6517/642.full
3 WHO: World Health Organisation
4 https://www.who.int/fr/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-recommends-against-the-use-of-remdesivir-in-covid-19-patients?ICID=ref_fark&utm_content=link&utm_medium=website&utm_source=fark
5 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZDzAKj-_5A at 8'27''
6 European Medicines Agency
7 https://youtu.be/TqiPK4pts7Y
8 EMA's failure to react and suspend the conditional authorisation of 3 July 2020, two months after Gilead was informed of the negative results; no post-authorisation efficacy study was included in the risk management plan; inadequate monitoring of the company; no dedicated CHMP meeting in October or November 2020.