

**Question for written answer E-007004/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Eero Heinäluoma (S&D)**

Subject: Effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine (also in light of the new strain of the virus)

To fight the COVID-19 crisis, the Commission has undertaken an ambitious vaccination strategy. In order to increase public trust in the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines (for the current and new mutated strains of the virus) and in order to increase transparency around the spending of tax payers' money, clear communication from the Commission is critical.

Against this backdrop:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the vaccines that have been purchased up until now will also be effective against new variants of the virus, and could it clarify against which epitope of the virus in particular the vaccines are effective? Can it outline whether research has been undertaken on the level of conservation of the epitope?
2. To increase public trust and transparency, will the Commission publish the parts of the contracts that back the responses to the previous questions?
3. Can it confirm that these contracts provide enough flexibility to ensure that if the critical part of the virus has mutated, the vaccine providers are legally obliged under the same contract to modify the vaccines they deliver?