

**Question for written answer E-000023/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Julie Lechanteux (ID)**

Subject: COVID vaccines

At a time when a new strain of COVID-19 has just been discovered in the UK and many European countries are failing to control the second coronavirus wave, criticism regarding vaccination delays is beginning to be heard.

Markus Söder, Minister-President of Bavaria, recently told *Bild*, 'the European Commission has probably planned too bureaucratically ... and price debates have gone on for too long. It is difficult to explain that a very good vaccine is developed in Germany but is vaccinated more quickly elsewhere<sup>1</sup>.' Söder was referring to the vaccine developed by Pfizer and the German company BioNTech.

His criticism comes on top of the muddle over contracts and confidential clauses that exonerate pharmaceutical companies from any liability, along with the incomprehensible disparity between the prices of different vaccines revealed by Belgian Secretary of State Eva De Bleeker: EUR 1.78 per AstraZeneca dose but USD 18 per Moderna dose<sup>2</sup>.

Could the Commission provide some insight into:

1. the guidelines for its vaccination strategy;
2. the waiver of liability clauses granted to pharmaceutical companies;
3. the significant difference between vaccine prices?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/vaccine-coronavirus-germany-markus-soder-blasts-brussels-failings/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lecho.be/economie-politique/belgique/federal/prix-des-vaccins-sur-twitter-la-secretaire-d-etat-de-bleeker-a-rompu-la-clause-de-confidentialite-selon-pfizer/10272832.html>.