

**Question for written answer E-000396/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: COVID-19 vaccines: questions regarding the lack of transparency over contracts

On 24 November 2020, the Commission congratulated itself on having purchased almost two billion vaccines, enough to cover the entire EU population, following its most expensive tender ever.¹

Yet, despite this 'success' under its belt, the Commission remains surprisingly tight-lipped about the contracts it has signed and it remains unclear how much it paid, what the manufacturers' liability is in the event of severe undesirable effects and other specific conditions of the contracts and the procedure.²

The Commission checks that EU law, including transparency, is applied to public contracts above certain thresholds agreed by national and local authorities. But in this case the Commission, on the pretext of a hypothetical 'commercial threat', is refusing to be transparent. And this despite Ursula von der Leyen committing to transparency when she was appointed President in October 2019.

1. In order to prevent conspiracy theories from abounding and to restore trust, will the Commission publish the contracts once the pandemic is over?
2. When will the Commission publish the selection criteria used and the declarations of interests and CVs of the technical experts and officials involved?
3. How is it that transparency, as enshrined in EU law, is beneficial and applies to all Europeans but not the Commission?

¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/sciences/covid-19-l-union-europeenne-reserve-pres-de-deux-milliards-de-doses-de-vaccins-20201122>

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/public-health/coronavirus-vaccines-strategy_en