

**Question for written answer E-000635/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Deployment of all safe and effective vaccines

The Commission bears a heavy responsibility for the long delay in rolling out the COVID-19 vaccination. In line with EU policy, which is being strictly and uniformly implemented, vaccines are being competitively produced and sold by pharmaceutical companies seeking to maximise profits, while Member States are being prevented from negotiating independently the procurement of vaccines deemed safe and effective with a view to ensuring mass immunisation as soon as possible.

The Commission President recently affirmed that 'all Member States were legally prohibited from negotiating independently or seeking parallel contracts'. This raises a number of major issues regarding a matter known to fall within the remit of the Member States.

In view of this:

On what grounds are other vaccines being excluded? Is it because they are insufficiently safe and effective and, if so, can the Commission furnish the relevant research results?

What view does it take of calls for:

full use to be made of all vaccines that have been deemed safe and effective to provide all necessary doses by allowing Member States to negotiate freely?

the mass recruitment of staff, the establishment of all contract staff on a permanent basis, the provision of all infrastructures necessary to ensure safe vaccination procedures and the reinforcement of what have become 'single-track' public health and primary healthcare services?