

**Question for written answer E-000712/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Virginie Joron (ID)**

**Subject:** Researcher dismissals and failure of Sanofi's COVID 'vaccine' despite company receiving billions in public subsidies

The drug company Sanofi receives EUR 150 million under the research and development (R&D) tax credit scheme every year. Thus, over the space of 10 years, the French public purse misses out on EUR 1.5 billion. However, Sanofi's R&D staffing levels have halved in 10 years (from 6 300 down to 3 800). In June 2020, management announced a dividend payment of EUR 4 billion for shareholders and 300 job losses in R&D<sup>1</sup>, including at the company's Strasbourg site.

The Commission paid Sanofi EUR 324 million to develop a COVID-19 vaccine<sup>2</sup>. However, Sanofi stated on 14 May 2020 that it would be given to citizens of the US first<sup>3</sup>.

On 11 December 2020, Sanofi and GSK warned that their vaccines were not to be expected before the end of 2021<sup>4</sup>.

On 22 January 2021, it was AstraZeneca's turn to announce delays in its vaccine deliveries<sup>5</sup>.

1. Will the Commission ask Sanofi to reimburse it if it fails to deliver an effective vaccine in good time?
2. How does the Commission check that vaccine laboratories do not divert vaccine doses to the US, the UK or any other country when they state that they cannot honour their contracts and guarantee deliveries to EU consumers?

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<sup>1</sup> Syndicat national des travailleurs de la recherche scientifique (National Trade Union of Scientific Research Workers), *En Bref* No 500, 'À quoi sert le crédit impôt recherche? Exemple de Sanofi' (What is the purpose of the R&D tax credit? The Sanofi example').

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2021/02/03/vaccins-contre-le-covid-19-dans-les-coulisses-des-contrats-europeens\\_6068574\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2021/02/03/vaccins-contre-le-covid-19-dans-les-coulisses-des-contrats-europeens_6068574_3244.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/sante/article/2020/05/14/vaccin-contre-le-covid-19-inacceptable-que-sanofi-serve-en-premier-les-etats-unis\\_6039621\\_1651302.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/sante/article/2020/05/14/vaccin-contre-le-covid-19-inacceptable-que-sanofi-serve-en-premier-les-etats-unis_6039621_1651302.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lecho.be/entreprises/pharma-biotechnologie/sanofi-et-gsk-prennent-du-retard-dans-la-course-au-vaccin-anti-covid/10271267.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210126-european-union-warns-astrazeneca-over-delay-in-delivering-covid-19-vaccine>