

**Question for written answer E-001553/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lukas Mandl (PPE)

Subject: Restoring freedom to travel and meet in person

On 17 March 2021, the Commission submitted a draft regulation on deploying a Digital Green Certificate with the aim of gradually restoring freedom to travel and enabling personal encounters. It also raises the prospect of recognising equivalent certificates from non-EU countries where vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) have been used and providing the non-EU country concerned also fully accepts the EU certificate. Irrespective of the draft regulation, negotiations with non-EU countries are also necessary to ensure soonest-possible mutual recognition and the corresponding broader freedom to travel globally for EU citizens.

1. Are negotiations already under way with non-EU countries or are such negotiations likely to start soon, so that the mutual recognition of certificates can begin as soon as possible?
2. What is the Commission's strategy with regard to such negotiations with non-EU countries which use mainly vaccines not approved by the EMA?
3. Has the Commission launched initiatives in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) to produce certificates which will be accepted globally?