Question for written answer E-001630/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Deaths linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine

With the COVID-19 pandemic still raging, Denmark, Norway and Iceland have announced that they are suspending all use of the AstraZeneca vaccine. By contrast, Austria, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Latvia have opted for a temporary suspension of batch ABV5300, rather than batch ABV2856, which was blocked in Italy by the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA).

According to official data, there have been five deaths in Italy, one in Austria, one in Denmark, and various particularly severe cases of deep vein thrombosis.

These figures are worrying, particularly when we consider that AIFA found the AstraZeneca vaccine to have a far lower efficacy rate (82.4%) than Pfizer (95%), Moderna (94%) or Sputnik (91%). Moreover, AstraZeneca is the main supplier of vaccines to Italy, which is expecting to receive 10 042 000 doses from the company in the next quarter, versus 8.7 million from Pfizer-BioNTech and 4 650 000 from Moderna.

In the light of the above data and the recent deaths, I should like to ask the Commission when we can expect the European Medicines Agency to clarify whether there are any serious side effects linked to the AstraZeneca vaccine?