

**Question for written answer E-001733/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Corrective measures to address AstraZeneca's failure to fulfil its contract

An inspection of AstraZeneca's vaccine manufacturing plant in the Netherlands, owned by the Halix group, discovered that production capacity did not correspond with the doses actually produced. Some 29 million units were found to be in Italy. The fact that this surplus was concealed from the authorities and that, at the time, the Halix plant did not yet meet the requirements for supplying vaccines to the EU, but it was able to supply to the UK, raised strong suspicions that AstraZeneca may be prioritising deliveries to the UK when it is still nowhere near the quantity of vaccines it has committed to delivering to the EU. These actions are difficult to reconcile with the 'best efforts' obligation to deliver the doses for which AstraZeneca gave an undertaking in the contract signed with the Member States, through the Commission. In light of this situation:

1. What explanation has the Commission received from AstraZeneca regarding the concealment of 29 million vaccine doses in Italy?
2. Does the Commission intend to bring breach of contract proceedings against AstraZeneca for failing to deliver the number of doses committed within the agreed deadlines?