

Question for written answer E-002178/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: What of the 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines exported to Saudi Arabia?

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 71 million doses produced in Europe have been distributed to the Member States¹, and less than 25% of persons aged 80 years and above in Europe have been vaccinated.

However, on 24 March 2021, the Commission was proud to announce that 77 million vaccine doses had been exported since 1 December 2020. The EU is the only OECD producer of COVID-19 vaccines to continue exporting – even to countries with their own manufacturing sites². Saudi Arabia and Singapore (which has 5.7 million inhabitants³) have each received 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

However, in France⁴, only 5% of adults and 2 million out of the 8 million French citizens over the age of 80 (25%) have been vaccinated.

1. Why has Saudi Arabia been more efficient in obtaining its vaccine deliveries than the Commission, considering the manufacturing sites were located in Europe?
2. Why has the Commission still not decided to block international COVID vaccine exports in order to prioritise distribution within Europe?
3. Why have exemptions been granted for aggressor countries (Azerbaijan) or countries which are well ahead of their vaccination programme (Israel)?

¹ <https://covid19-vaccine-report.ecdc.europa.eu/>

² A total of 45 million doses have therefore been exported since early February.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_21_1383

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁴ <https://www.sortiraparis.com/actualites/a-paris/articles/239732-vaccination-en-france-ou-en-est-on-le-lundi-29-mars-2021-nombre-de-vaccines-par->