Question for written answer E-003307/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tiziana Beghin (NI), **Daniela Rondinelli** (NI), **Dino Giarrusso** (NI), **Sabrina Pignedoli** (NI)

Subject: Effectiveness of CureVac vaccine and purchase commitment by Member States

The interim results of the phase three study on the efficacy of the vaccine produced by the German company CureVac delivered a result of 47% for the over-60 age group. This would prevent the manufacturing company from marketing the vaccine in accordance with World Health Organisation guidelines, which require efficacy of at least 50%.

However, the EU has committed to purchasing 225 million doses, with an option for an additional 180, while the EMA has issued ambiguous statements which could suggest a possible lowering of the permissible vaccine efficacy threshold in Europe[1].

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission know whether CureVac has already notified that it has submitted the data from its efficacy studies to the EMA?

2. Do Member States have to make an advance payment, regardless of whether the vaccine is approved by the EMA or not, and if so, what amount has to be paid by each country?

3. Is it really possible for the EMA to approve a vaccine even if its efficacy is less than 50%, which would run counter to WHO guidelines?

[1] https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/ema-says-setting-50-efficacy-threshold-covid-19-vaccines-is-difficult-2021-06-17/