

**Question for written answer E-003374/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Transparency as regards the cost of COVID-19 vaccines

Figures published at the last EU Summit indicate that 424 million vaccine doses have already been delivered to the EU and another 497 million are expected to follow in the next quarter¹. The orders made and options to purchase far exceed these figures. In the last month alone, new vaccine doses were purchased from the producer BioNTech/Pfizer to the tune of EUR 35 billion². Given the sums involved, Union taxpayers ought to have the right to track the exact transfer of funds and covert costs.

1. How much EU money have vaccine manufacturers been paid and what are the costs incurred by the EU in terms of purely administrative work such as processing fees and additional costs, e.g. on legal representation?
2. Following the fiasco with the manufacturer AstraZeneca, have appropriate precautions been adopted and more severe penalties or similar measures built into contracts that will run in the future?
3. How many of the Commission staff responsible for the purchase of vaccines have contacts with the pharmaceutical sector and benefit themselves from the contracts awarded?

¹ <https://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/international/eu-gipfel-hoffnung-im-kampf-gegen-die-delta-variante-impfkampagne-beschleunigt-sich-weiter/27360978.html>

² <https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/news/bis-2023-eu-kauft-bis-zu-18-milliarden-weitere-biontech-impfdosen-li.157976>