

**Question for written answer E-003375/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Management of Key Technologies

Public authorities played a far-reaching role in the development effective vaccines against the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, on the one hand, direct subsidies served to create production capacity and, on the other hand, to create the suitable conditions at universities in the first place, as illustrated by the example of BioNTech<sup>1</sup>. Nevertheless, manufacturers expect to make billions of euros in profit<sup>2</sup>.

1. When ordering the vaccines, why did the Commission not use its influence to negotiate better prices or better delivery conditions in exchange for the sums paid up-front?
2. Why was such a key technology not kept fully within the Union and why were third country companies given access?
3. Does the future EU strategy envisage better protection of potential patents financed by the public purse?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tagesschau.de/wirtschaft/impfstoffe-109.html>:

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.manager-magazin.de/unternehmen/pharma/corona-impfstoffe-die-aussicht-auf-gewinne-fuer-pfizer-biontech-moderna-a-e4d29f5e-a508-465b-ac3c-72f1cee01dc9>