

**Question for written answer E-003381/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)**

Subject: Delta variant

To date, across the EU, some 423 million vaccine doses have been distributed, with 355 million vaccinations administered (over 60% of adults in the EU have already received their first shot and around 40% are fully vaccinated, which is around 145 million people). However, there is increasingly worrying information about the risks posed by the Delta variant. Although vaccines are 90% effective against the variant, according to the latest ECDC analysis the situation is extremely worrying for three reasons:

the Delta variant is 40-60% more contagious than the previously dominant Alpha variant;

70% of new infections by early August will involve the Delta variant, rising to 90% by the end of August;

the Delta variant is associated with a greater risk of hospitalisation, which is why the WHO and ECDC recommendations about continuing the vaccination process remain unchanged.

If monitoring and analysis show that the Delta variant will become the dominant form of the virus across the EU within a few weeks, does the Commission plan to set up an additional group of experts from the Member States who would be able to provide clear and precise recommendations on vaccines against variants, and to issue recommendations on possible scenarios after August this year, taking into account a decline in the effectiveness of vaccines against the current Delta variant (or any mutation)?