

**Question for written answer E-003808/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: Liability clauses for vaccines and vaccine hesitancy

Public trust in vaccines requires more transparency regarding vaccine contracts, authorisation and deployment in the EU. According to the latest information, vaccine manufacturers cannot be held liable in the event of adverse side effects. No further details have been provided on the specific meaning or legal scope of an adverse side effect in a vaccine.

1. Could the Commission define the term 'adverse side effects' in this context and provide detailed information on the circumstances under which pharmaceutical companies could be wholly or partially exempted from indemnity payments, and how patients and their families could be compensated if they suffer adverse side effects as a result of vaccination?
2. Has the Commission examined the possible relationship between the lack of transparency in these contractual clauses and vaccine hesitancy across the EU and has it drawn up a comprehensive EU action plan to deal with the societal issue of vaccine hesitancy, taking into account the varying circumstances and specific challenges faced by the Member States?
3. Is the Commission considering establishing an EU platform to monitor the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, given that the lack of transparency in the vaccine approval process combined with the lack of independent research on their possible side effects could undermine public trust and confidence in vaccines?