Question for written answer E-005089/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: REGEN-COV treatment

REGEN-COV treatment (casirivimab and imdevimad are neutralising IgG1 recombinant human monoclonal antibodies that target the receptor-binding domain of the SARS-COV-2 virus' spike protein).

REGEN-COV was first approved on 20 July 2021 in Japan for the treatment of mild and moderate COVID-19. On 10 August, the FDA authorised the drug for use in emergency cases as post-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19 in adults and children. On 24 September, the WHO also announced that it recommends the cocktail of monoclonal antibodies produced by Regeneron. The EMA is currently reviewing the preliminary data. In February, the Agency issued advice that REGN-COV2 may be used to treat confirmed cases of COVID-19, which could be used to inform national decision-making on the possible use of antibodies prior to marketing authorisation.

1. In the EU Strategy on COVID-19 therapeutics of 6 May (section 6 on flexible adaptation to needs), the Commission outlines a voluntary mechanism enabling participating countries to jointly purchase medical countermeasures for different categories of cross-border health threats, including vaccines, antivirals and other therapeutics. To what extent does the Commission take into account in this joint strategy the persistent economic differences between countries as regards their ability to purchase the medicines referred to above?

2. What additional steps does the Commission intend to take to identify 'promising' new treatments for COVID-19 as part of the therapeutics strategy?