

**Question for written answer E-005508/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Expired vaccines and disagreements between pharmaceutical groups and states

The pandemic is surging globally and the new variants, such as the delta variant from India and the omicron variant from Botswana, come from countries where only 31% and 20% of the population, respectively, are fully vaccinated. In a number of 'poor' countries, fully vaccinated people account for no more than 6% of their populations, while globally vaccine coverage stands at 42.7%.

In the EU Member States, the United States and elsewhere there are millions of vaccine doses that have either expired or will expire soon, while a significant proportion of their population remains unvaccinated.

Across the EU, and in Greece specifically, the doses ordered outnumber the population by 3 to 1. According to reports, thousands of doses have expired while being held by countries such as France, the Netherlands, Poland, Lithuania and Romania. In the United States nearly 15 million doses have been destroyed.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say whether it knows the exact number of Member States' vaccine doses that have either expired or have been resold, or 'gifted', to countries outside the EU, both through the COVAX Facility and directly by the EU?

In addition, what is the Commission's view regarding:

the pressing need to take all measures necessary for protection against the pandemic and in particular to support the public health system?

the demand for the removal of all 'patents' on vaccines and drugs, since these are directly linked to the parasitic and dangerous capitalist concept of ownership that is leading to the abovementioned tragic outcomes?