

**Question for written answer E-005580/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission support to developing countries for vaccine manufacturing and distribution

The low vaccination rate of African least developed countries (LDCs) not only constitutes a blatant injustice, but also poses an immediate threat to global public health insofar as the circulation of SARS-COV-2 might lead to the emergence of more variants that could be resistant to the currently available vaccines.

The COVAX initiative is very much welcome, but has proved its limits. Nowadays, 93 % of the global export value of COVID-19 vaccines is shared among just 10 exporters¹. If we are to inoculate the entire population of the world, local supply chains need to be stepped up everywhere, including in Africa.

Médecins Sans Frontières has identified at least seven companies in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and South Africa that are certified as having good manufacturing practices for sterile pharmaceutical products by a stringent regulatory authority (in the EU, the USA or by the World Health Organization)².

It is also essential to build warehousing facilities, appropriately train the health workforce and reinforce public health systems to ensure a smooth vaccine roll-out in least developed countries.

1. Does the Commission intend to support the expansion of manufacturing capacities in Africa?
2. How is the Commission assisting least developed countries in setting up the necessary logistical infrastructure to vaccinate their populations?

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/using-trade-to-fight-covid-19-manufacturing-and-distributing-vaccines-dc0d37fc/>

² <https://msfaccess.org/sharing-mrna-vaccine-technologies-save-lives>