

**Question for written answer E-005581/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU response to the failure of voluntary licencing and voluntary transfer of technology for COVID-19 vaccines

The mRNA Vaccine Technology Transfer Hub¹ is an mRNA training facility where the technology is established at industrial scale and clinical development is performed with the goal of training and providing technology and know-how to manufacturers from low- and middle-income countries through a single entity.

The smooth functioning of the hub requires technology transfer. Given that the temporary waiver of certain TRIPS (World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property rights) provisions on COVID-19 vaccines has not been adopted, technology transfers can only take place if patent beneficiaries agree to make them.

No technology has been transferred to the hub so far. This means that the hub has to start from scratch, which will vastly increase the time it will need to carry out its function.

1. Has the Commission called on companies owning COVID-19 patents to transfer their technology?
2. If patent owners refuse to make such transfers, and considering that the compulsory licencing regime laid down in Article 31 of TRIPS does not cover trade secrets, does the Commission have any plan to ensure that the hub receives technology transfers without enacting a temporary waiver on certain intellectual property rights?

¹ <https://www.afro.who.int/news/towards-africas-first-mrna-vaccine-technology-transfer-hub>