

Question for written answer E-000277/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ECR)

Subject: Limiting conflicts of interest in bodies setting the health strategy

Oxfam's latest report on inequality found that, in the last two years, pharmaceutical giants have significantly boosted their profits – in some cases to an estimated USD 1 000 per second – as a result of the health policies adopted by the EU and others in managing the pandemic. Corporate Europe Observatory has calculated that, over the same period, the sector ramped up its spending on lobbying at the European institutions by at least 20%.

What is more, controversies have emerged concerning the potential conflict of interest between members of EU bodies involved in managing the health crisis and pharmaceutical companies.

All this has fuelled widespread distrust in the health strategy, which has been heightened by serious cases of the Commission showing a deliberate lack of transparency over the content of vaccine contracts and the funding sources of the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

In the light of the above, can the Commission say why it does not deem it appropriate:

1. to agree to publish all information concerning the vaccine contracts and the EMA's funding sources?
2. to put forward ad hoc rules to limit the risk of conflicts of interest between policymakers and for-profit organisations in the pharmaceutical and health sector, which would include tougher transparency requirements and clamp down on the 'sliding doors' phenomenon?