

**Question for written answer E-001035/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR)**

Subject: Potential shortage of syringes

The EU's COVID-19 vaccination rollout has exposed the precariousness of depending on non-EU countries when ensuring the supply of medical devices. The WHO has also warned that the potential shortage of 1 to 2 billion syringes could result in slower routine immunisations and create issues with needle safety in 2022.

Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has committed to strengthening health systems and supporting crisis preparedness through the creation of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). Moreover, the Task Force for Industrial Scale-up was established to address various supply chain bottlenecks and to procure medical devices for the vaccine injections – including syringes, with low dead-space syringes among them. Low dead-space syringes are pivotal for the most efficient use of COVID-19 vaccines, as they help increase the number of vaccine doses per vial unit.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission take action to support the manufacturing of (low dead-space) syringes in the EU?
2. Which EU funds would the Commission and HERA plan to use to strengthen syringe manufacturing capacities in the EU?
3. Will HERA consider supporting EU external action to reduce syringe shortages in developing countries?