

**Question for written answer E-002812/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jean-Paul Garraud** (ID)

Subject:     Manufacturers' failure to update COVID-19 vaccines

On 24 March 2021, Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said, 'We need to be prepared to adapt vaccines as quickly as possible to respond to new and potentially vaccine-resistant variants.'

The Commission committed to supplying medical staff with an effective vaccine within 90 days of the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant.

Pfizer BioNTech made a public commitment in November 2021 to reformulate its product within six weeks and to dispatch the first consignments within 100 days.

However, despite the sudden outbreak of the alpha, beta, delta, gamma and omicron variants, along with some subvariants that the WHO considers concerning, no vaccines designed to counter any of them has been given to health care professionals.

1.   Can the Commission explain why manufacturers have not updated their vaccines?
2.   Do the contracts between the Commission and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers contain a clause setting a deadline for the supply of a product developed to tackle the latest variants or subvariants?
3.   If so, does a failure to meet a contractual deadline entitle the Commission to seek compensation?