

**Question for written answer E-003466/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Have Commission delays in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines resulted in over 100 000 European deaths?

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), COVID-19 vaccination has saved the lives of almost 500 000 people across Europe,¹ including some 236 000 in the European Union. The four European states reported to have the most effective vaccination programmes (Iceland, the United Kingdom, Israel and Norway) are not members of the EU.²

One study partially funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and one of whose authors has connections with the Moderna laboratory, calculated that a staggering four million deaths from COVID-19 had been averted in Europe by the end of 2021 and some 14 million, or perhaps even as many as 20 million, had been averted worldwide one year on from the first vaccinations:³ that figure means that 39 deaths were averted for every 10 000 vaccinations administered.

Based on these figures, every delay in the process and every delayed injection must have contributed to the toll of unnecessary deaths. According to the Commonwealth Fund, had the pace of vaccination been twice as slow (from January to June 2021), the United States could have been dealing with an additional 121 000 deaths.⁴ For its part, the Commission authorised the vaccine⁵ but began its procurement process later than the United Kingdom and the United States and could not guarantee security of supply: the EU vaccination rollout was delayed by three months.⁶

1. How many deaths in Europe may be attributable to Commission delays?
2. How many deaths in Europe may have stemmed from the Commission's decision to export 50% of the EU's COVID-19 vaccine production?⁷

¹ 25.11.2021 https://twitter.com/eu_commission/status/1465732532691951618?lang=en Oddly, the figures for Germany were not available for reference in the study conducted by ECDC and WHO.

² Table 1: <https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2021.26.47.2101021>

³ Table 1: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9225255/pdf/main.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2021/jul/deaths-and-hospitalizations-averted-rapid-us-vaccination-rollout>

⁵ <https://www.science.org/content/article/wonderful-news-wake-uk-greenlights-pfizers-covid-19-vaccine>

⁶ Report of the European Court of Auditors entitled 'EU COVID-19 vaccine procurement', pp. 11, 16 and 17: https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR22_19/SR_EU_COVID_vaccine_procurement_EN.pdf

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_4701