

**Question for written answer E-003477/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Monkeypox vaccine: public health in the hands of a company

In July 2022, the World Health Organization declared the global monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency. The virus has now caused more than 20 deaths. Despite those facts, outbreak control has been slow, owing to the global shortage of vaccine doses, itself caused by the fact that the Danish company Bavarian Nordic has a monopoly on the vaccine's production. The shortage has also hit Portugal, which ranks 13th in the worldwide list of countries with the most infections. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a number of lessons, including that intellectual property rights should never be placed ahead of public health protection. The TRIPS Agreement makes provision for this matter of common sense. A number of experts and activists have been advocating the need to lift patents on these vaccines and to share all research data with a view to stepping up global production of the vaccine and to make it possible for equitable access to that technology to be available in every country.

1. Does the Commission believe it is right that a single company has a monopoly on the production of a vaccine needed to bring a public health emergency under control?
2. What position will it take on this matter?
3. Will it support the lifting of patents in this case?