

**Question for written answer E-001129/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Production of vaccines after the COVID-19 pandemic

The US acted faster and more effectively than the EU in terms of vaccine production during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU has now set itself the objective of achieving 'strategic autonomy', i.e. independence from third countries. A number of experts were invited to a meeting of a special committee on 6 February 2023 to review with Parliament the development, production and distribution of the vaccine. With this in mind:

1. At the beginning of the pandemic, the US subsidised many different manufacturers of vaccines and gave tax breaks for their rapid production. According to the economist Chad Bown, the EU lacked such an approach to facilitate diversification during the Covid-19 pandemic. What courses of action does the Commission envisage for potential future pandemics?
2. The term 'strategic autonomy' is very vague and cannot therefore be defined in the same way for each area of concern. This makes it difficult for decision-makers to take targeted action on 'strategic autonomy'. How would the Commission interpret this 'strategic autonomy' in terms of vaccine production?
3. The economist Massimo Florio advocates an overarching research network based on cooperation between many independent companies. Is the Commission also pursuing the idea of creating a single vaccine research network and to what extent would this be compatible with the division of competences in health matters?

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