

**Question for written answer E-003031/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Brussels to help Pfizer and an Indian pharmaceutical company build up a strategic European vaccine production reserve

On 20 June 2023, the Commission (via the European Health and Digital Executive Agency) signed a contract totalling EUR 1.4 billion with pharmaceutical firms from the US (Pfizer, EUR 943 million), India (Bilthoven/Serum Institute of India, EUR 230 million) and Spain (EUR 234 million)¹.

According to Politico, the annual cost would be EUR 160 million for a capacity of 325 million doses per year of vaccines against an unspecified disease².

1. Why did the Commission select non-European (American and Indian) companies rather than European companies such as Sanofi Pasteur, a leader in the vaccine sector, or emerging companies such as Valneva, to receive what is akin to 'European state aid' for a task involving strategic sovereignty?
2. Why has the Commission selected Pfizer, which already received an avalanche of public funds during the COVID crisis, and whose behaviour during the crisis was far from exemplary³ (maximising profits, aggressive tax relief, lack of transparency on side effects and contracts, lack of responsibility on the matter of compensation for victims)?
3. Why has the Commission chosen only little-known Spanish pharmaceutical companies (CZ, for example, has a turnover of EUR 16 million) rather than Valneva⁴ or other European firms for the EUR 234 million third round?

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¹ The published contract mentions 450 million doses <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:219919-2022:TEXT:FR:HTML&tabId=0>, 79 million (HIPRA) <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:393941-2023:TEXT:FR:HTML&tabId=0>, and 155 million. (CZ/Reig), three small Spanish pharmaceutical companies in Madrid, Catalonia and Galicia.

² https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/framework-contract-signed-under-eu4health-guarantee-fast-response-future-health-crises-2023-06-30_en and <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-buys-vaccine-capacity-to-prepare-for-next-pandemic/>

³ Unlike Astra, Pfizer benefited greatly from public subsidies during the COVID crisis. Some NGOs have denounced the use of the Netherlands and Ireland to reduce the tax burden on vaccine profits. Pfizer now has a state-funded war chest (acquiring Seagen for EUR 40 billion); https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001479_EN.html; <https://urlz.fr/nZsz>

⁴ <https://urlz.fr/nZrV>