

Question for written answer E-003751/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: 215 million Covid-19 vaccine doses tossed in the bin

At least 215 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, purchased by EU countries, have been thrown away. According to Politico, 1.5 billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were delivered to EU countries since the end of 2020, a huge proportion of which have ended up in landfills. Many governments, including France and Greece, have failed to publish figures showing just how many vaccines have been thrown out. Politico's calculations are based on data from 15 countries that provided direct figures and there were four countries where volumes were reported in local media. The value of the wasted vaccine doses is estimated at more than EUR 4 billion, with taxpayers footing the bill. EU countries ordered such high volumes of the vaccine that they ended up with a huge amount of excess stock, even when Covid-19 subsided. Efforts to donate the surplus vaccines to non-EU countries failed due to a drop in demand.

In view of this:

Does the Commission know exactly how many vaccines ended up in landfills in each EU Member State and, thus, what financial losses the EU incurred as a result of all these surplus doses being purchased?

Submitted: 21.12.2023