Question for oral answer O-000003/2022 to the Commission

Rule 136

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Subject: Right of access to documents under Article 42 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and redacted contracts with vaccine manufacturers

Contracts with vaccine manufacturers such as BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna, CureVac, Johnson&Johnson, AstraZeneca, Sanofi-GfK and most recently the contract with Novavax of 9 November 2021 have so far only been published with extensive redactions. The documents published completely omit important contract details such as price, delivery and payment terms, expected efficacy and liability issues.

According to Parliament’s website ‘a democratic system designed for transparency makes it easier for people to get involved in decision-making processes. The institutions only gain legitimacy and become more effective if they are always fully accountable to citizens’.

1. Why were these redactions made?

2. To what extent does the Commission consider that the contracts published comply with transparency requirements?

3. Who in the Commission had access to the unredacted contracts?

4. To what extent does the Commission consider that its actions comply with Article 42 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR)?

5. How are Members of Parliament and citizens able to scrutinise the Commission’s spending policy, participate in decision-making processes and give legitimacy to institutions such as the Commission if contracts worth billions of euros are not made available?

6. Will the Commission immediately disclose the contracts in full and make them available to all citizens?

Submitted: 2.2.2022

Lapses: 3.5.2022

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