

**Priority question for written answer P-006880/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Vaccination strategy against COVID-19

Various companies are offering vaccines which are said to offer protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus up to a certain percentage. On 11 November 2020 the Commission approved the fourth contract with BioNTech-Pfizer aimed at ensuring access to a potential vaccine for the Union.

1. The Commission has determined that delivery should take place only when a vaccine which was demonstrably safe and effective was available. The first recognised COVID-19 case was identified a little over a year ago. How can the Commission say that a vaccine which it has authorised is safe if no long-term studies have been carried out and its long-term effects on the human body are, therefore, likewise unknown?
2. In some countries such as the United Kingdom, restrictive measures for people who have not been vaccinated against the virus have already been announced. Restrictions of this kind would not only be unconstitutional in some Member States but would also conflict with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. How can the freedom to not have to be vaccinated and, in turn, the equal rights of vaccinated and unvaccinated Union citizens in the EU be guaranteed?
3. How does the Commission justify the present opaque procurement procedure vis-a-vis pharmaceutical companies? What criteria determined the award of the contracts?