

**Priority question for written answer P-000097/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: Transparency of the vaccine purchase procedure

The President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has underlined that the legally-binding arrangements for purchasing Covid-19 vaccines do not allow for 'parallel negotiations or parallel contracts' and that agreements with companies are negotiated by the European Union on behalf of the Member States. The arrangements were intended to ensure that no one country would have an unfair advantage in terms of access to vaccines.

The purchase of an additional 30 million doses of the BioNTech and CureVac vaccines by the German Government is therefore hugely controversial, particularly as the agreements on the purchase of these vaccines were not publicly announced in the autumn, when they were signed. The community determined that vaccines would be distributed fairly among countries in proportion to their population size, and no approval was given for bilateral negotiations with the companies with which it conducted the negotiations. The German Government is in breach of these arrangements, and this was concealed.

In addition, it appears that other Member States also intend to purchase additional doses of vaccines. Information chaos reigns.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. When did the Commission find out about the purchase of additional vaccines by the German Government?
2. Will there be legal consequences for Germany for ignoring EU arrangements for the purchase of vaccines, and what will they consist of?
3. Does the vaccine purchase strategy that was adopted still apply to everyone, or are there privileged countries that can go against the arrangements that have been made without fear of consequence?

The reply should be sent and published as soon as possible.