Priority question for written answer P-005300/2021

to the Commission

Rule 138

István Ujhelyi (S&D)

Subject: Validity of the digital COVID certificate and booster shots

I welcome the Commission’s proposal for a Council recommendation on booster shots and limiting the validity of the digital green certificate (DGC) to 9 months. I have followed the restrictive measures planned in the Member States, and for example Belgium will only be able to administer booster shots to the majority of its citizens next year. Any Member State could adopt tough health measures and decide not accept the validity of the DGC after 6 months without a booster shot. Furthermore, the validity of millions of citizens’ DGC will expire after nine months unless they can receive the third vaccine. So the 11 January 2022 deadline is too late.

1. The majority of travellers may only realise this at airports or border checks, so how does the Commission plan to inform the Member States and ask them to avoid this problem?

2. Does the Commission have any tools to speed up the administration of booster vaccinations in Member States?

3. Could the Commission bring forward the entry into force of this new recommendation, even to before Christmas 2021?