

**Priority question for written answer P-000356/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: Whose idea was it to order 146 million additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine?

According to *Politico*, European countries have already admitted that they have thrown away 215 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, costing EUR 4 billion¹. France has refused to disclose the number of doses it has discarded².

However, on 16 January 2024 the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) published a call for tenders³, on behalf of the Commission and 18 Member States, including France, to order an additional 146 million vaccine doses, announcing in advance that it would keep the price secret and that only invited companies would be able to bid.

Given the shortcomings which the Court of Auditors found in previous procurements⁴, the tax avoidance schemes reported by the NGO SOMO⁵, the early termination of contracts by a number of countries, the penalties applied by Pfizer and the ongoing legal proceedings⁶, no contract should be able to be signed, in accordance with Article 136 of the Financial Regulation⁷.

1. Who decided to order 146 million additional doses?
2. Who decided to include doses for six-month-old babies?
3. How will Members of the European Parliament and auditors at the Court of Auditors be able to audit this financial transaction, in accordance with Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, if the price per dose is being kept secret?

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¹ *Politico*, 18 December 2023, <https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-bonfire-covid-vaccines-coronavirus-waste-europe-analysis/>

² The ECDC estimates that 100 million doses were delivered to France but not administered in France.

³ <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/document/document-old-versions.html?docId=162657>

⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/covid19-vaccines-19-2022/en/index.html>, p. 33.

⁵ <https://www.somo.nl/big-pharma-raked-in-usd-90-billion-in-profits-with-covid-19-vaccines/>

⁶ <https://www.politico.eu/article/pfizer-is-suing-poland-over-covid-vaccines-this-is-how-we-got-here/>

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>