**Marc Botenga,** *on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group***.** – Madam President, I’ve got a question that I don’t want you to answer. That question is, how much are you willing to pay to save your life? And yet, unfortunately, that question is still very much used by many pharmaceutical companies to decide on the price of a treatment or a vaccine. That is what explains why a Belgian family had to pay EUR 1.9 million euros for a life-saving treatment to Novartis. That also explains why the CEO of Sanofi dares to threaten to give the vaccine first to the United States. And that explains why today, Belgian health authorities fear that the vaccine will not be available to all.

So that is why it is so, so important for us to make sure that no pharmaceutical company gets an exclusive right on the coming treatment or vaccine. And granted, the European Union has, by and large, talked the talk, and that is important. We’ve spoken about a common public good that will not belong to anybody. However, when we talk the talk, you should also walk the walk, because otherwise it’s just hypocrisy. And that is why I was so surprised and, indeed, disappointed to read on the website of the Commission that you were not going to touch the intellectual property rights. Now for me, it’s very, very clear. We raised 7.4 billion. That 7.4 billion should not serve the private profits of pharmaceutical companies. Let me be clear: in a pandemic, patents have no place. We have a right to a cure and we have a right to a people’s vaccine.