

Brussels, 25th January 2021

Dear President Von der Leyen,  
Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

**The European Union is playing a major role in the vaccine strategy against COVID-19**, including financing vaccine research and development, its authorization for use, its buying, and distribution to Member States.

The Commission is running a **single central procurement procedure** on behalf of all Member States, thereby signing EU level Advance Purchase Agreements (“APAs”) with vaccine manufacturers. As a result, The European Union has struck a deal to initially pay less for Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate than the United States.

Those APAs **include up-front EU financing to de-risk essential investments** in order to increase the speed and scale of manufacturing successful vaccines (“Vaccine Instrument”). For instance,

In return, the APAs provide the right – or under specific circumstances the obligation – to Participating Member States to buy a specific number of vaccine doses within a given timeframe and at a given price.

To date, two safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 have been authorised for use in the EU following positive scientific recommendations by the European Medicines Agency:

- BioNTech-Pfizer: up to 600 million doses: On 11 November 2020, the Commission approved a contract to purchase up to 300 million doses (**of which the Commission decided to purchase 100 million additional doses on 15 December 2020**). On 8 January 2021, the Commission proposed to EU Member States to purchase another 200 million doses, with the option to acquire 100 million additional doses.
- Moderna: up to 160 million doses (**of which the Commission decided to purchase 80 million additional doses on 15 December 2020**).

It is worth recalling that the European Investment Bank provided €100 million, in June 2020 to help BioNTech’s vaccine trials and manufacturing.

To date, **the European Commission reached agreements with four other pharmaceutical companies for the purchase of a potential vaccine against COVID-19** once the vaccine has proven to be safe and effective:

- AstraZeneca to purchase 300 million doses, with an option to purchase 100 million more.
- Sanofi-GSK to purchase up to 300 million doses.

- Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, to purchase 200 million doses, with an option to purchase 200 million more.
- CureVac for the purchase of 225 million doses on behalf of all EU Member States, plus an option to request up to a further 180 million doses.

In addition, **a significant part of the budget available under the European Support Instrument is being used to secure the production of vaccines in the EU and sufficient supplies** for its Member States through the said Advance Purchase Agreements with vaccine producers.

**These are all major accomplishments by the European Union**, conducted in the spirit of the projected Health Union for which you should be congratulated. However, it is of paramount importance to communicate them to the European people, notwithstanding certain delays in the delivery process.

Knowing how important is policy communication in our times, including the role of pictures and social media, **it is quite astonishing that so far the EU logo does not seem to appear at all in the vehicles and boxes delivering the vaccines to the European citizens.**

**Thereby we strongly encourage to taking immediate advantage of the next deliveries in order to fully conduct a thorough EU-image packaging, in addition to your current conversations with the providers to ensure the compliance with the agreed schedule.**

Many thanks in advance, and kind regards,

Domènec Ruiz Devesa MEP