

**From:**

[GAMBS Hubert \(GROW\);](#)

**Subject:** Summary minutes of telephone call with Pfizer and BioNTech 18/03/2021  
**Date:** vendredi 19 mars 2021 14:47:04  
**Importance:** High

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**Subject: Industrial scale-up of the production of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccin**

**Pfizer:**

**BioNTech:**

**COM-GROW: Hubert GAMBS,**

**COM-SANTE: Pierre DELSAUX**

Pfizer highlighted the importance of keeping international trade flowing as, e.g. 19 countries host steps of the supply chain of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Pfizer has an efficient export platform in Belgium and this is why their EU operations serve the whole world but the US (they decided to have a dual supply chain: US and rest of the world, which seems to be efficient in dealing with the US Defence Production Act). Transatlantic harmonisation of regulatory procedures desired.

BioNTech relies on a network of CMOs. BioNTech is working collaborative and efficiency with EMA. Regulatory approvals necessary for its whole network are obtained in a reasonable period of time. DG SANTE informed about the plans to speed up EMA procedures for Covid-19 vaccines.

BioNTech requested that shipments of samples should not be subject to the transparency mechanism. Sending these samples to US verification centres is vital for fast expansion of its production in the EU.

On shortages, they identify the supply of raw crystal as a major challenge (rather than the capacity to produce crystal vials). While Pfizer and BioNTech seems to be doing quite well in securing their supplies/capacities, some of the CMO partners face more challenges.

Agreement on the need to be prepared for future variations.

They look forward to the upcoming 29 and 31 TFIS's matchmaking event.



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