

Minutes: Steering Board meeting 19 January 2021

The developments over the weekend in relation to Pfizer/ BioNTech/Pfizer, namely:

- (i) the announced temporary reduction in the number of doses delivered;
- (ii)

[REDACTED]

communication from the company

triggered another exceptional SB meeting with Pfizer to address these issues.

In a tour de table, all Member States reported similar issues, such as:

- a reduction of dose/vials of the ongoing deliveries from Pfizer ();
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-
- the company did not send any delivery schedule on future supplies.

The Members also by the communication by the company.

Some Member States suggested

All Members agreed that strategically it would be more important to get as many doses as possible in order to accelerate vaccination. Therefore, the focus should be (i) on getting enough doses and vials ; (ii) stable deliveries ;(ii) the company communicating a delivery state of play and updated delivery schedule, which they had not yet done despite the repeated calls of the Commission.

The Members stressed that transparency and a coordinated approach at EU level was needed.

In the follow up **meeting with Pfizer representatives** it was outlined that:

- Member States wanted fast access to the agreed number **doses** and of **vials** and a **stable calendar**.

[REDACTED]

- the ability to forecast and count on the agreed number of doses was of vital importance for the implementation of the national vaccination strategies;
- communication from the Company was very important especially on changes in deliveries as they escalates and create problems at the very high political level;
- unannounced deliveries should be avoided.

The Pfizer representatives:

- understood the MSs frustration caused by several elements
communication, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] etc
- acknowledged the [REDACTED] communication and agreed that [REDACTED];
- understood the Member States' difficulty of adjusting the vaccination plans to keep up with the changes in the deliveries;
- outlined that the company made the best efforts to satisfy all customers [REDACTED] the EU MSs in the context of the current pandemic which made the company work in unprecedented conditions;
- presented the latest version of the allocation for the week of the 18th and 25th of January with a new allocation [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] for the week of 18 January and 100% for the week starting on the 25 January.
- reassured that as of February 1st, MSs would be brought back to 100% allocation of then weekly doses communicated on 4th of January;
- reassured that after the 15th of February allocations would be over 100% of the weekly doses communicated on January 4th.

The Commission expressed [REDACTED].

The Commission required **reassurances once again** [REDACTED]. The company confirmed and did not foresee any dips given the manufacturing facilities at the moment.

The Commission stressed the importance of having **clear and stable layers of schedules** for the **initial, optional and top-up doses** and asked the company to ensure those. The company agreed to this and indicated it was working towards ensuring a clear and secure scheduled which would not be subject to further changes.

The Members asked the company to [REDACTED] they had the necessary medical equipment to extract it from the vials ([REDACTED]). The Company said it was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] would get back to the MSs in a few days with an adequate solution.

The company indicated that they had been testing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and came up with a list which the MSs could consult on the Comirnaty website to check if they had the right combination. If not, the company could put at the disposal of the MSs [REDACTED]

The Commission

- asked for a detailed delivery scheduled until end of February and a very detailed forecast for March ;
- insisted that this should remain a one week dip;
- expected the company to stick to the delivery schedule that it had proposed and agreed to (including for the top-ups and ').
- conveyed another meeting with the company on Friday to discuss the schedule for the following week and asked for certainty on the numbers and time.