



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis

Brussels, 2021

**Meeting with European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
European (EFPIA)**

26/10/2021

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting:

On TRIPS waiver, EFPIA underlined that the main question in terms of COVID vaccines now is about access and distribution given production is gearing up. Both in the short-term but also in the medium to long-term, where there also is being developed treatments, which should also be made broadly available. They expect 9,3 billion vaccines shots to be produced globally at the end of October, and a total production in 2021 of 12 billion vaccines. 54% of EU production will go to export, which indicated the EU and the pharma industries commitments to deliver vaccines to third countries. EFPIA fully support the commitment of the G20 of sharing vaccines. The question therefore is now not about increasing production but to ensure distribution of the vaccines.

The intellectual property system and patents have been instrumental to channel the private investments into the development of vaccines according to EFPIA, and it should be seen as a prerequisite for the successful development of the four approved vaccines, with more on the way. Likewise, there have been over 300 voluntary licensing agreements for production in third party factories.

On the TTC, EFPIA welcomed the initiative and its establishment. They argued that the work should include work on supply chain resilience. The way forward, inspired by the US, could be to incentivise increased resilience in supply chains, although this should not mean protectionist measures.

As for the trade negotiations with New Zealand, EFPIA was interested in the intellectual property and its place in the deal. They noted that New Zealand had a much weaker system than the EU or US, and the FTA would help to align with EU, including on the way of calculating the patents' duration (the 8+2+1 years).

Topics: Pharmaceutical sector – trade related issues

TRN:

EFPIA - 38526121292-88
Merck Group - 49654992078-52
Sanofi - 61291462764-77
Pfizer - 4263301811-33

Invitation: Ares(2021)5006294

Participants:

- EFPIA: Art. 4.1(b)
- Merck Group: Art. 4.1(b)
- Sanofi: Art. 4.1(b)
- Pfizer : Art. 4.1(b)
- Cabinet: Art. 4.1(b)