

Steering Group meeting, 17 July 2020

The Commission expressed the gratitude to the Member States which supported the Agreement on Covid-19 vaccines and invited the other Member State to conclude their national procedures and sign the Agreement. This would guarantee equitable access to vaccines for all EU Member States.

The co-Chair mentioned that Governments of the Member States expressed their positive feedback on the consensus reached.

Update on AstraZeneca contract

The Commission informed the members of the Steering Board that the tender dossier along with the invitation to tender was sent to AstraZeneca. The company will provide in the next days their feedback on the proposed tender specifications and submit a contract and the additional documents required by the Commission.

The Commission has seen the initial contract with AstraZeneca concluded by the Inclusive Vaccines Alliance. An important element of the contract would be an agreement on the liability clause. The Commission intends to negotiate and sign the contract with AstraZeneca by [REDACTED] 2020. If necessary, there will be organised an ad-hoc Steering Board meeting to consult the opinion of the Member States on the contract with AstraZeneca [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Update on ongoing negotiations with vaccine producers

The Commission continues the negotiations with multiple vaccine producers, in order to consolidate its vaccines portfolio.

The Commission and the representatives of the Joint Negotiation Team updated the Member States on the ongoing negotiations with the other vaccine producers:

- Sanofi – further to the constructive discussions with the company, there are some improvements compared to the initial offer. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Following the negotiations, Sanofi accepted [REDACTED]. As an additional safeguard element, the company included [REDACTED] the same price [REDACTED] countries [REDACTED]. The Commission proposed a more balanced [REDACTED]. The Commission is negotiating to pay the [REDACTED] payment in [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] For a balanced share of the risk, the Commission proposed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

The Commission mentioned that the vaccine producer accepted to [REDACTED] supply the vaccine by [REDACTED] 2021.

Following a round of questions and discussions, the [REDACTED] emphasised that for this manufacturer the key element is timing. As well, the price has to be maintained at the lowest possible level.

- BioNTech- the company proposed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The meeting on liability was planned on Friday, 17 July and more details will be provided at the next meeting of the Steering Board.

[REDACTED] BioNTech is an European company and currently co-operates with Pfizer [REDACTED]

The company proposed a distribution schedule, which involves delivering [REDACTED] amount of vaccine at the end of 2020, and the rest of the volume will be delivered in 2021.

- Johnson & Johnson – [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] complemented that the company would be interested to find a consensus on liability [REDACTED].

- Moderna - a number of meetings had taken place. A discussion on liability [REDACTED] took place on Monday, 13 July. The vaccine producer has to revert with a conclusion on the liability. Member States who intervened indicated that they wished discussions with Moderna to continue [REDACTED] The next meeting with Moderna was planned for Friday, 17 July.

- CureVac - the discussions focused on the payment structure. The Commission asked the company [REDACTED] vaccines delivered in [REDACTED] 2021. [REDACTED] The company will revert with a clearer structure [REDACTED] The next discussions will focus on the production and liability.

The co-Chair concluded that it is important to have a scientific opinion on the quality of the vaccines, [REDACTED]

The Member States expressed that it is relevant to continue the negotiations with the companies and maintain neutrality and the competition spirit between the vaccine producers. As well, it is important to have a diversified portfolio of vaccines in terms of timeline and delivery scheme.

The Commission invited the Member States to express their interest for vaccines [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Member States have to prioritise their preference for a vaccine taking into account the timeline, the scientific approach and the price of the vaccine.

Update on meetings held with smaller producers

The Commission has sent to the members of the Steering Board an Excel table compiling the offers of the smaller producers, and noted the importance of agreeing on an approach to these offers.

Member States are invited to provide their feedback or questions by email.

Following a round of questions and discussions, the Commission mentioned that a joint approach in selecting the manufacturers is preferred. Nevertheless, in case a Member State does not agree with the conclusion of an APA or the terms of the contract, it will have the right to opt out within 5 working days after the Commission communicates its intention to conclude the APA. To be noted that according to the Article 7 of the Agreement on Covid-19 vaccines, the Member States cannot to launch their own procedures for advance purchase of that vaccine with the same manufacturer.

Tour de table on update/completion of estimated numbers of people for vaccination

The co-Chair pointed that some estimates for vaccines were missing.

For the formality of the process, the Commission invited the Member States to communicate the estimates **(number of regimens)** by email.

The latest state of play is presented in the table below:

Member State	Number of priority group	% of priority groups accept vaccination	Estimated number of people for vaccination
Austria			
Belgium			
Bulgaria			
Croatia			
Cyprus			
Czech Republic			
Denmark			
Estonia			
Finland			
France			
Germany			
Greece			
Hungary			
Ireland			
Italy			
Latvia			
Lithuania			
Luxembourg			
Malta			

Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenia					
Spain					
Sweden					
ESTIMATED TOTAL					

Presentation by [REDACTED] on principals of pricing philosophy

Regarding the principals of pricing philosophy, there are distinct vaccine producers:

- The [REDACTED] companies (e.g.: [REDACTED], etc.)
[REDACTED] with a global approach, [REDACTED]
- The companies which raised money from the stock market or venture capital (e.g.: [REDACTED]), [REDACTED] propose a [REDACTED]

By engaging with all the manufacturers, it is important to create the right expectations. In return to the public funding provided by the Commission, the companies have to propose a [REDACTED].

Update [REDACTED] on GAVI and COVAX

The co-Chair pointed that a summary of the discussion with GAVI representatives has been sent by email to the members of the Steering Group.

In their interventions, Members States mentioned the importance of global solidarity and support to the COVAX Facility. They also stressed that for the EU use the focus should be on the ESI instrument.

This point will be discussed in the next COREPER meeting, the Member States are encouraged to get in touch with their colleagues in Permanent Representations to the EU.

The Commission concluded that the EU is fully committed to an international mechanism that makes vaccines a “public good”. The strong support given by the Commission at the highest level has resulted in the creation of the COVAX Facility and the ACT Accelerator with the aim of making efficacious and safe vaccines affordable to all countries. In fact, the EU is directly and indirectly supporting the vaccine production for all, through the upfront financing of the manufacturers. [REDACTED]