



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health
Health Emergency Response and Vaccines

Luxembourg
SANTE.DDGL.03/ (2021)4795891

@puertoreal.es
Email transmission only

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the European Commission Representation in Spain, from 04 March 2021, regarding the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. In my capacity as Head of Unit for Health Emergency Response and Vaccines, I am responsible to reply to you on their behalf.

Vaccines are our best chance to put an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, the European Commission set up the EU Vaccines Strategy in June 2020 to build one of the broadest portfolios of different vaccines that are safe, effective and affordable.

Under the Strategy, the European Commission has been negotiating access to potential vaccine candidates on behalf of Member States, and has successfully concluded advanced purchase agreements with six vaccine developers. So far, the Commission has secured 4.4 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines¹ and has signed contracts with six companies². And negotiations are ongoing to secure more doses from promising vaccine candidates. Safe and effective vaccines have been developed and manufactured in record time, and more and more people are being vaccinated every day. We are also taking decisive action to increase the production, delivery and roll-out of vaccines across the EU.

We are doing everything in our power to support the roll-out of vaccines in Europe, including by increasing the availability of vaccines in the coming weeks and months. We would like to remind you that vaccination campaigns and distribution are part of Member State's competence. The Member States, in your case Spain, are the sole owners of the vaccine doses purchased, questions about distribution and vaccination plans therefore lie within the Member States.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/public-health/coronavirus-vaccines-strategy_en.

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/safe-covid-19-vaccines-europeans_en#securing-doses-of-future-vaccines

You can find more information on the EU Vaccine Strategy here:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_1662

When it comes to AstraZeneca, what matters most now is that the company ensures the delivery of sufficient number of doses in line with the company's earlier commitments. The company announced in January that it would not be in a position to deliver the number of doses laid down in the contract. The Commission and the Member States immediately took this matter up with the company with a view to ensure a speedy delivery of sufficient number of doses, urgently needed for the vaccination campaigns in the Member States. You can find more information on this procedure here:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3107

We can assure you that the European Commission is fully committed to the rapid delivery of COVID-19 vaccines and is working closely with manufacturers to accelerate production.

Yours faithfully,

A grey rectangular box used to redact the signature of the official.