

stronger negotiation position with potential developers and manufacturers of a coronavirus vaccine. This proved to be important groundwork, eventually leading to the first contract the European Commission negotiated on behalf of the EU Member States: the advance purchase agreement between AstraZeneca and the Commission.

- Many countries want to have a coronavirus vaccine as soon as possible. The Netherlands firmly believe that a common strategy and joint investments are crucial to success in this area. We therefore welcome the efforts of your taskforce to identify and eliminate bottlenecks in vaccine production sites on an European level.
- Recently, the Dutch government also appointed a special envoy for vaccines: Hans Schikan. Mr Schikan, who has extensive experience in the biopharmaceutical industry, will look into how the Netherlands can further accelerate the manufacture of coronavirus vaccines in the current circumstances. The vaccine special envoy's work has a European dimension as well. The Dutch vaccine special envoy has been asked to coordinate his national efforts with your EU investigation. Due to Covid related travel restrictions, Mr Schikan was unfortunately not able to meet you today.
- You just visited Halix, which is just one of many successful companies in the Dutch Life Sciences & Health community, which includes 3,100 R&D life sciences companies, 420 biopharmaceutical companies, 65,000 employees in pharmaceuticals and a 4.7-billion-euro medtech market. Not to mention, 26 campuses, 8 University Medical Centers, and 13 universities engaged in Life Sciences research. All this potential is located within a 2.5-hour drive radius.

- In fact, it only takes a five minute walk from Halix to another important company in Leiden: one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson which hopes to receive EMA approval of its COVID-19 vaccine later this month.
- If your taskforce needs any support, we are more than willing to assist. Companies in the Life Sciences & Health sector find a welcoming home in The Netherlands, strategic location, opportunities for public-private partnerships, leading knowledge institutions, and the presence of key regulatory bodies such as the European Medicines Agency. The Netherlands also welcomes companies to pursue partnerships in its compact, open, and well-connected environment. More than 300 public-private partnerships, such as Lygature, RegMed, and Oncode thrive in the Netherlands, facilitated by the Topsector organisation Health~Holland.
- Concerning AstraZeneca and Halix, the Dutch vaccine envoy is already in good consultation with both parties to explore possible expansion of the production capacity in Leiden. As with the Inclusive Vaccine Alliance earlier, I hope that this proves to be important groundwork for successful further cooperation with your taskforce and will support the joined efforts to allow everyone in Europe – and in low- and middle income countries – to benefit from a vaccine.

Spreekpunten Buiten reikwijdte

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Buiten reikwijdte
[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Spreekpunten Buiten reikwijdte

- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]
- [Redacted list item]