



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mr Pedro Siza Vieira  
Minister of State, Economy and Digital  
Transition

Dear Minister,

I am looking forward to the informal videoconference of the Ministers responsible for Internal Market and Industry on 25 February 2021. This “COMPET Council” will coincide with the EU Leaders meeting on the COVID-19 pandemic, and I would like to thank you for allowing time for a discussion at our level on our efforts to scale up COVID-19 vaccine production.

Variants of the virus are a real threat. We must therefore anticipate and organise ourselves to be ready to live with this virus for some time still. Industrial production capacity is central to meeting our current vaccine needs. It will remain vital this autumn / winter – with the possible need of new vaccines tackling new variants – as well as in the medium term to ensure the EU’s autonomy in the area of health within a timeframe of 12 to 18 months.

For all these reasons, we have to massively and rapidly increase our industrial capacity for the production of vaccines and medicines. In addition to protecting our own citizens, Europe should produce sufficient vaccines to continue showing solidarity with the rest of the world.

In order to stay ahead of the curve, we must anticipate problems earlier, detect issues faster and respond together – pooling our strengths in a more integrated and more strategic public-private approach and response.

On 17 February, the Commission invited European Heads of State and Government to endorse the creation of the HERA Incubator. It will be the framework for our coordinated action to continue ramping up the production and roll-out of authorised vaccines, whilst in parallel getting prepared for addressing the urgent and emergent threats of variants.

In this spirit, the Commission has set up a Task Force for Industrial Scale-up of COVID-19 vaccines to detect and help respond to issues in real time. It will build on the ongoing mapping of existing industrial capacities for vaccine production in Europe, as well as facilities that can be potentially repurposed to produce vaccines. It will also work on addressing a number of key bottlenecks for COVID-19 vaccines production (active ingredients, specialised

equipment and material) which could stand in the way of an optimally functioning vaccine supply chains in the EU.

A number of Member States have already contacted the Commission with details of local production capacity and have shared their efforts to bring together industrial stakeholders at national level. We need to build on these contacts and benefit from all the available industrial contributions across Europe.

I am also aware of some Member States establishing their own task force and their own contacts with manufacturers. Some Member States are already planning to support production capacities in their territory. I would like to use this opportunity to discuss how efforts at EU and national level can be mutually supportive and complementary.

In particular, I would like to ask Ministers:

1. Have you mapped undertakings that can be involved in the domestic production of COVID-19 vaccines and related goods and services, taking into account the specifics of the different types of vaccines?
2. Can you identify companies able to offer solutions to the bottlenecks related to COVID-19 vaccine production supply chain?
3. Are you aware of any concrete assistance companies on your territory may require (regulatory, financial ...) to enable them to address the current bottlenecks associated with COVID-19 vaccine production? Are you already providing this kind of support?

I would be grateful for the transmission of this letter to Ministers to inform our discussion on 25 February.

Yours sincerely,



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