

**Proposal for regular meetings on industrial capacity
between the Commission, EU Member States and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers
with advance purchase agreements (APAs)**

Introduction

State of play of the Commission, and Commission-EU Member States structures for a dialogue with APA manufacturers

- In the context of the on-going negotiations of EU advance purchase agreements (APAs), a Commission-EU Member States joint negotiation team (JNT), composed of Commission officials and representatives from 7 EU Member States, maintain regular negotiation meetings with APA manufacturers and other COVID-19 vaccine developers. The primary purpose is to sign new APAs and to monitor the implementation of the existing ones. This joint negotiation team reports regularly to the Commission-EU Member States vaccines steering board.
- Under the political leadership of Commissioner Thierry Breton, the Task Force on industrial scale-up of the production of COVID-19 vaccines (TFIS) is in contact with actors along the vaccine supply chain. The TFIS monitors the vaccine production supply chain, maps industrial capacity, addresses bottlenecks and facilitates matchmaking among those actors. 18 Member States have submitted letters to the Task Force so far, identifying unused production capacity and possibilities to expand production.
- Some EU Member States have created their own national task forces or coordinators/envoys on industrial scale-up.
- The TFIS has regular (every two weeks), coordination meetings with Member States (COMPCRO Attachés and experts in the capital). The first meetings took place on 17 and 30 March 2021.

Need for more coordination with EU Member States on the industrial set-up for COVID-19 vaccines

- The current structures above do not allow for a Commission-EU Member States coordinated detailed discussion on the industrial capacity between Commission, Member States, and the APA manufacturers.

Proposal

Purpose:

- Necessary to avoid overlap of the subject matter of these discussions with the meetings between the APA manufacturers and the joint negotiation team (JNT) for the APAs.
- Conduct “industrial reviews” of the industrial supply chains of the APA manufacturers together with Member States.
- Facilitate a technical discussion between Member States, the Commission and APA manufacturers specifically on industrial capacities and production bottlenecks as well as tapping into unused production capacity.
- Leverage the industrial expertise in Member States’ administrations.
- Coordinate bilateral contacts already happening between APA manufacturers and national administrations.

Format of the meetings:

- Regular meetings with each APA manufacturer individually.
- Composition:
 - o APA manufacturers (experts for operations/supply chain).
 - o EU Member States' industry experts (industrial attachés, envoys or coordinators for industrial scale-up), following the model of the JNT for the APAs: i.e. the following 7 Member States: ^{5.1.2a} and ^{5.1.2a} possibly additional Member States with a specific interest, e.g. due to production sites in the network of a specific APA manufacturer, invited on an ad hoc basis). Regular debriefs of the meetings to all Member States.
 - o Commission (members of the TFIS, DG SANTE, other services if needed).
- Chaired by the head of the TFIS.

The results of the technical discussions on industrial capacities should be reported to the regular meetings between the Member States and the TFIS, the vaccine steering board and the HERA high level group, whenever relevant.