

EN

E-001058/2021

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.5.2021)

1. Via the EU Strategy for COVID-19 vaccines¹, the Commission has secured access for Member States to up to 2.6 billion doses, largely sufficient to offer a full vaccination cycle of two doses to the entire EU population. Vaccines are being delivered to Member States, and more are on their way. Deliveries will increase in volume from April 2021. The target of Member States having vaccinated 70% of the adult population by this summer is ambitious, but reachable with the doses that have been delivered/will be delivered to Member States.

2. In collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the Commission is monitoring the progress of vaccination in Member States, via countries' own reports. In general, Member States need to speed up vaccination to have vaccinated 70% of the adult population by this summer, and to follow the pace of deliveries. How many times faster Member States would need to vaccinate to reach this target, would depend of national arrangements.

3. The Commission notes that the current issues of vaccines supply in the EU are linked to production capacity and not to intellectual property. Given the technical complexity of vaccines, facilitating broad voluntary industry co-operation is the best way to maximize the supply of vaccines. The Commission, via a dedicated task force, is engaging with Member States and companies to explore how to increase vaccine production in the EU. It stands ready to help facilitate technology transfers, if needed.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0245&from=EN>