

EN

E-006551/2020

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.4.2021)

On 17 June 2020, the Commission adopted an EU Strategy for COVID-19 vaccines¹, setting out a common EU approach to securing vaccine supplies for Member States and their citizens through advance purchase agreements with vaccine producers via the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI)². A total number of 2.6 billion vaccine doses have been secured from six different vaccine producers. These agreements include the possibility to donate vaccines to lower and middle-income countries or re-direct them to other European countries. The Commission is working on a vaccine-sharing mechanism, described in the Commission Communication³ adopted on 19 January 2021 on ‘A United Front to Beat COVID-19’, that aims to complement and support COVAX’s leading role in ensuring universal access to, and deployment of, vaccines. Team Europe is one of the largest donors to the COVAX Facility through which the occupied Palestinian territory will receive COVID-19 vaccines to cover up to 20% of their population.

The Commission has no official information if Germany made a commitment to share with Israel any COVID-19 vaccines and therefore it is not possible to comment on this matter.

The EU continues to urge Israel to address, in line with its obligations under international humanitarian law, the needs of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory. The EU will continue to engage with Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other stakeholders so that the Palestinian population can benefit from efficient cooperation between the parties and receive the necessary support to overcome the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in particular as regards an efficient and swift rollout of a vaccination programme.

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

² https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/emergency-support-instrument_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf