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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of COVID-19 vaccines. COVAX, the vaccine pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator¹, started delivering vaccines at the end February 2021 and had shipped by 9 April 2021 more than 38 million doses to over 100 countries. COVAX includes the Advance Market Commitment for 92 low- and middle-income economies that will benefit from the doses procured through donor grants.

The EU and its Member States are one of the lead contributors to COVAX with over EUR 2.2 billion. This contribution following a ‘Team Europe’ approach is a significant step towards achieving the COVAX objective to deliver 1.3 billion doses of vaccines for 92 low- and middle-income countries by the end 2021. The EU will continue to lead and support international solidarity efforts through COVAX, including through the establishment of a humanitarian buffer of about 100 million doses for humanitarian or emergency needs.

The EU's participation in COVAX is complementary to the EU vaccine sharing mechanism, which is being set up to help priority groups in the Western Balkan and Neighbourhood countries as well as health professionals in low-income countries, in particular in Africa, and most vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings to get early access to vaccines.

Equitable access to vaccines means equitable supply by governments and companies. The Commission has called on other manufacturing countries to contribute to the global supply and facilitate the good functioning of supply chains. In the same vein, the Commission calls on companies involved in the vaccine manufacturing chain to release unnecessary stocks and respect contracts.

¹ [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-\(act\)-accelerator](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-(act)-accelerator)