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P-000877/2021

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.4.2021)

1. The Commission, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Member States engage actively in support of research and development of medicinal products for treatments of COVID-19. EMA is in interaction with developers of promising COVID-19 therapies and provided scientific advice on more than 50 potential treatments. EMA works together with regulatory authorities worldwide to expedite and streamline the development and approval of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. National authorities are informed about these activities.
2. The EU has used several instruments to fund research and innovation projects for COVID-19 treatments, such as Horizon 2020¹, the Innovative Medicines Initiative² and financing by the European Investment Bank³, reaching several hundreds of million euros⁴.
3. Preventing the disease with vaccination offers a very effective and cost-efficient way out from the pandemic. Developing COVID-19 treatments is not within the scope of EU4Health currently, but this falls in the remit of the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, and possibly under the future Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, HERA⁵.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation/treatments_en

² <https://www.imi.europa.eu/news-events/newsroom/8-new-covid-19-projects-announced>

³ <https://www.eib.org/en/stories/covid-19-vaccines-therapies-diagnostics>

⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/f666b159-65d0-11eb-aeb5-01aa75ed71a1>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12870-European-Health-Emergency-Preparedness-and-Response-Authority-HERA->