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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(30.4.2021)

The Commission remains strongly engaged in the multilateral response to the COVID-19 crisis and in ensuring wide international access to vaccines.

As one of the largest donors, Team Europe (EU, its Member States, and financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) has contributed EUR 2.2 billion to the COVAX Facility, through which all beneficiaries will receive COVID-19 vaccines to cover up to 20% of their population. The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) would in that sense receive the same equivalent amount. In addition, the Commission is ready to set up an EU vaccine sharing mechanism to facilitate access to vaccines through donations and/or resales from EU Member States to partners, including the Palestinian Authority, in a coordinated manner.

In principle, the Commission is ready to pledge up to EUR 20 million to help the Palestinian Authority to purchase vaccines and provide the necessary logistics and equipment, in close coordination with the Palestinian and the Israeli authorities. In addition, the Commission strongly encourages continued engagement between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and other stakeholders to ensure 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.