

BULLETS FOR MS

- The very promising talks with Sanofi-GSK and Johnson& Johnson are the first steps in our **European Vaccines Strategy**, based on a joint action at European level to allow EU Member States to increase the likelihood of finding an **effective vaccine against the coronavirus**.
- The Strategy aims to ensure the **quality, safety and necessary volumes of vaccines at affordable prices** for the citizens of our Member States, while leading the global solidarity effort.
- It also allows **to adapt the EU rules to the current urgency** in order to accelerate the development, authorisation and availability of vaccines while maintaining the standards for vaccine quality, safety and efficacy.
- The European Commission and Member States are working very closely together with pharmaceutical companies to develop this **joint approach**, which will help avoid potentially harmful competition and deliver 'tangible **European solidarity**'.
- **Intensive discussions** continue with other vaccine manufacturers.
- The Commission and Member States are supporting in very practical terms the efforts to accelerate the development and availability of safe and effective vaccines in a timeframe **between 12 and 18 months**, if not earlier, without compromising on safety, quality or efficacy.
- The envisaged contract with these companies will provide for the **possibility for all EU Member States to purchase the vaccine**, as well as to donate to lower and middle income countries or re-direct to EEA countries.
- The Commission has developed a centralised EU approach to securing supplies and providing support for the development of a vaccine. **Companies with promising vaccine candidates**, already in or close to starting clinical trials, are invited to contact the Commission.
- Once a vaccine has proven to be safe and effective against COVID-19, the Commission will have a **contractual framework in place for the purchase of 400 million doses** on behalf of all EU Member States.
- The exploratory talks concluded today are intended to result in an **Advance Purchase Agreement** to be financed with a significant part of the EUR 2.7 billion **Emergency Support Instrument**, which has funds dedicated to the creation of a portfolio of potential vaccines with different profiles and produced by different companies.
- In return for the right to buy a specified number of vaccine doses in a given timeframe and at a given price, the Commission will finance part of the **upfront costs faced by vaccines producers** from the ESI.
- **Additional support** is possible through loans from the European Investment Bank. This approach will decrease risks for companies while speeding up and increasing manufacturing.
- The Commission enters into Advanced Purchase Agreements with individual vaccine producers **on behalf of Member States**.
- This funding will be considered as a **down-payment on the vaccines** that will actually be purchased by Member States.

- As regards **governance**, the Commission has set up and chair a steering board, composed of representatives of all participating Member States. The steering board will propose a small team of Member States' experts who will support the Commission in the negotiations and form together with the Commission representatives the joint negotiation team.
- With the signature of the Advance Purchase Agreement the lives of our citizens will go back to normal and our economies pick up full speed.