

Brussels, 24 February 2021

**Declaration from Members of the European Parliament to urge the Commission and Member States not to block the TRIPS waiver at the WTO and to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines**

We, Members of the European Parliament, urge the European Commission and the European Council to review their opposition to the TRIPS waiver proposal at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which serves to enable greater access to affordable COVID-19 health technologies, including vaccines, in particular for developing and middle income countries. This call comes in view of the European Council meeting of 25 February 2021 and the crucial decision to be made by all Member States at the WTO General Council on 1-2 March 2021.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the need to ensure global open access to COVID-19 health technologies and to rapidly scale up their manufacturing and supply has been widely acknowledged. However, despite efforts and statements made by the European Commission and several heads of state in support of treating COVID-19 medical products as global public goods, this has not yet translated into actionable realities.

In this context, the EU's open opposition to the TRIPS waiver risks exacerbating a dangerous North-South divide when it comes to affordable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, personal protective equipment, treatments and vaccines. The WTO decision on a potential waiver offers a crucial and much-needed act of effective solidarity, as it is an important step towards increasing local production in partner countries and, ultimately, suppressing this pandemic on a global scale. As the Commission President has repeatedly stated, no one is safe until everyone is safe.

Besides the removal of potential legal barriers to production of health tools, enabled by the TRIPS waiver, the sharing of know-how and technologies with GMP manufacturers from third countries is essential. Pharmaceutical companies must play a proactive role in this regard. Thus far, the EU strategy has mostly focused on domestic production. In view of the difficulties of manufacturers to deliver the committed doses to the EU and the EU's export control mechanism, it is crucial to enable production outside the EU.

As stated by the European Commission, the challenges of the 21st century call for more multilateral governance and rules-based international cooperation. The EU must step up its leadership and ensure it promotes a genuine multilateral system of solidarity, supporting all countries to respond efficiently to the pandemic. While we acknowledge the Commission's support to the COVAX facility, the unwillingness shown at the WTO to consider all options to scale up global production of vaccines and to engage in a substantive dialogue with a growing number of sponsors of the TRIPS waiver is very concerning.

We, members of the European Parliament, therefore call on the Commission and the Member States not to block the proposed TRIPS waiver, and to engage into a constructive dialogue with partner countries, in order to enable their local production capacities and increase their access to COVID-19 treatments.

List of signatories

Kathleen VAN BREMPT  
Anna CAVAZZINI

Udo BULLMANN  
Mohammed CHAHIM

Benoit LUTGEN  
Philippe LAMBERTS  
Maria ARENA  
Paul TANG  
Tilly METZ  
Timo WOELKEN  
Marc ANGEL  
Marc TARABELLA  
Kate ina KONE NÁ  
Margrete AUKEN  
Kira PETER-HANSENS  
Benoit BITEAU  
Sylvie GUILLAUME  
Nikos ANDROULAKIS  
Gabriele BISCHOFF  
Rasmus ANDRESEN  
Andreas SCHIEDER  
Sven GIEGOLD  
Ernest URTASUN  
Terry REINTKE  
Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO  
Marc BOTENGA  
Manon AUBRY  
Brando BENIFEI  
Agnes JONGERIUS  
Kim VAN SPARRENTAK  
Mick WALLACE  
Clare DALY  
Cornelia ERNST  
Tudor CIUHODARU  
Reinhard BÜTIKOFER  
Silvia MODIG  
Hannes HEIDE  
Martin HÄUSLING  
Joachim SCHUSTER  
Piernicola PEDICINI  
Petros KOKKALIS  
Anne-Sophie PELLETIER  
Saskia BRICMONT  
Dimitrios PAPANICOLAOU  
Tiziana BEGHIN  
Mounir SATOURI  
Sara CERDAS  
Erik MARQUART  
Fabio Massimo CASTALDO  
Carlos ZORRINHO  
Romana JERKOVIC  
Milan BRGLEZ

Michèle RIVASI  
Manuel BOMPARD  
Sira REGO  
Mario FURORE  
Chris MACMANUS  
Nikolaj VILLUMSEN  
Idoia VILLANUEVA  
Lara WOLTERS  
Bas EICKHOUT  
Carles PUIGDEMONT  
Antoni COMIN  
Clara PONSATI  
Leila CHAIBI  
Marcel KOLAJA  
Pernando BARRENA  
Isabel SANTOS  
Jordi SOLÉ  
Mikula PEKSA  
Sara MATTHIEU  
Pascal ARIMONT  
Alex AGIUS SALIBA  
Raphaël GLUCKSMANN  
Eleonora EVI  
Łukasz KOHUT  
Helmut SCHOLZ  
David DRUI  
Francois ALFONSI  
Damien CAREME  
David CORMAND  
Karima DELLI  
Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD  
Claude GRUFFAT  
Yannick JADOT  
Caroline ROOSE  
Marie TOUSSAINT  
Salima YENBOU  
Alviina ALAMETSÄ  
Massimiliano SMERIGLIO  
Patrick BREYER