



***Manon Aubry and Martin Schirdewan***  
*Co-Presidents of The Left in the European Parliament*

For the attention of:

**David Maria Sassoli**  
President of the European Parliament

**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission

28 January 2021

**Subject: AstraZeneca contract**

Dear President Sassoli,  
Dear President von der Leyen,

The timely mass production and availability of safe, effective and affordable vaccines is of utmost importance in the fight against the Covid-19 virus. In this context, the conduct of British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca regarding delays in deliveries of its Covid-19 vaccine is completely unacceptable. We are currently not even able to verify the accuracy of the statements as the contract with the company is still top secret. It is imperative that we know whether AstraZeneca has broken the contract. To this end, we request the publication of the full text of the contract with AstraZeneca.

Our political group has repeatedly advocated that in order to avoid any delays and shortages, the Covid-19 vaccines should be treated as global public goods. We demand full transparency of the vaccine negotiations and all purchase agreements, not only the version of the contract with CureVac, including all clauses, articles and provisions. This is a necessary condition to enhance the trust of European citizens in the vaccines. The EU needs to overcome the barriers and restrictions arising from patents and intellectual property rights.

To this end, we refer you to yesterday's resolution "Covid-19 vaccines: ethical, legal and practical considerations" of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which calls on the states of the Council of Europe to treat Covid-19 vaccines as global public goods.

It is high time that Parliament and Commission step up their efforts in order to ensure the widespread distribution of vaccines to all citizens. To make this possible, transparency must be ensured, barriers and restrictions arising from patents and intellectual property rights must be overcome.

Yours sincerely,

M. Schirdewan

Martin Schirdewan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Manon Aubry', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Manon Aubry