



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health  
The Director

Luxembourg  
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Alliance for Serbia  
By email: [office@savez-za-srbiju.rs](mailto:office@savez-za-srbiju.rs)

Dear members of the United Serbian opposition,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2020 and for sharing your concerns on the Serbian population's access to the COVID-19 vaccine. We take note of the position of the United Serbian opposition. Commissioner Kyriakides and Commissioner Valean asked me to reply on their behalf.

Please note that there is currently no joint procurement foreseen for COVID-19 vaccines under the Joint Procurement Agreement (JPA) to which Serbia is a party. It would not be possible to use the JPA to procure a vaccine for COVID-19 before such a vaccine exists and is placed on the market.

However, the Commission is committed to a multilateral approach to the provision of vaccines for COVID. It has been particularly demonstrated in the pledging campaign the Commission initiated in May 2020, which raised 15.9 billion EUR towards universal access to affordable coronavirus vaccination, treatment and testing. Part of this support would go to the Advanced Market Commitment under the COVAX Facility, operated by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world with special attention to Low and Middle Income Countries (details: <https://www.gavi.org/covid19/covax-facility>).

The Commission encourages Serbia and all the partners in the EU Neighbourhood to express an interest to join the COVAX Facility and its Advance Market Commitment to secure access to vaccines procured by the Facility at a negotiated price. This has already been done by Armenia, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

In parallel, the EU is working to secure an access to COVID-19 vaccines for its Member States through upfront financial support for promising vaccine candidates via the Emergency Support Instrument. As the Instrument is legally limited to use by EU Member States only, third countries are not eligible to use it. Nonetheless, this initiative complements the global response efforts by financially supporting companies with clinical trials and expanding production capacities.

I trust that the above information provides clarification on the matter you mentioned. Should you have any questions and would like to receive any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me and relevant services.

Yours sincerely,

John-F RYAN