Basic information

2021/2692(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on meeting the global COVID-19 challenge: effects of the waiver of the WTO TRIPS Agreement on COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, equipment and increasing production and manufacturing capacity in developing countries **Subject** 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) 6.30 Development cooperation **Legislative priorities** The EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic	

Key players

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Health and Food Safety	KYRIAKIDES Stella

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/05/2021	Debate in Parliament		
09/06/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0283/2021	Summary
10/06/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2692(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Motion for a resolution		B9-0306/2021	08/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0307/2021	08/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0308/2021	08/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0309/2021	08/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0310/2021	08/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		B9-0311/2021	08/06/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0283/2021	09/06/2021	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)531	23/09/2021	

Resolution on meeting the global COVID-19 challenge: effects of the waiver of the WTO TRIPS Agreement on COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, equipment and increasing production and manufacturing capacity in developing countries

2021/2692(RSP) - 09/06/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 355 votes to 263, with 71 abstentions, a resolution on ‘Meeting the global COVID-19 challenge’.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled as a joint resolution by the EPP, S&D, Renew and Greens/EFA groups.

Members recalled that there have been approximately 172 000 000 cases of COVID-19, resulting in over 3.7 million deaths worldwide and that 11 billion doses are needed to vaccinate 70 % of the world’s population, although only a fraction of this amount has been produced.

Temporary lifting of the WTO TRIPS agreement on patents

Expressing its deep concern about the evolution of the pandemic, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, Parliament called for support for negotiations on the text of a temporary waiver of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), with a view to enhancing global access to affordable COVID-19-related medical products and addressing production constraints and supply shortages worldwide.

Accelerating global vaccine deployment

The COVAX mechanism is facing a shortfall of 190 million doses due to the current COVID-19 situation in India and will not meet its supply targets in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, Members called on the EU and its partners to substantially increase their contributions to the COVAX mechanism. They stressed that the supply of COVAX should be a priority, regretting moves by the UK and the US to set up a secondary market for the resale of surplus vaccine doses to other industrialised countries.

The Commission is urged to engage with vaccine producing countries to rapidly eliminate export barriers and replace its own **authorisation mechanism** with export transparency requirements. The United States and the United Kingdom should immediately lift their export bans on vaccines and raw materials for vaccine production.

Voluntary licensing and know-how transfer

Stressing the need to invest in the production capacity of developing countries in order to make them self-sufficient in the long term, Parliament considered that this could best be achieved by encouraging voluntary licensing arrangements and voluntary transfers of technology and know-how to countries that already have vaccine production facilities.

The Commission is asked to consider whether and how it can provide legal support for compulsory licensing in the least developed countries.

Stressing that intellectual property protection is a key incentive for innovation and research worldwide, Members drew attention to the threat that an indefinite waiver of the TRIPS agreement would pose to research funding, especially for researchers, investors, developers and in clinical trials.

African continent

Given the need to support production capacity on the African continent, Parliament welcomed the announcement by Team Europe of a EUR 1 billion initiative to improve production of and access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies. It stressed that the EU now has a responsibility to invest in regional distribution centres, especially in Africa, and to support the creation of an **African Medicines Agency**.

In this regard, Parliament called for support for local licensing authorities, training of qualified personnel to administer vaccines, support for vaccine supply chains and help to overcome obstacles such as lack of cooling infrastructure and reluctance to vaccinate.

New generation vaccines

Members called on the EU to ensure that future advance purchase contracts are fully disclosed, especially for new generation vaccines. They also consider that contract negotiations for COVID-19 vaccines should be carried out with the **utmost transparency**, including by directly involving Members of the European Parliament in the decision-making processes for the contracts, through the Vaccine Working Group.

Parliament expressed its wish to receive on a regular basis a comprehensive and detailed analysis of vaccine production, imports, exports and related forecasts, including information on the country of destination of EU exports, as well as on the origin of imported vaccines and vaccine components.