

**Question for written answer E-002921/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Virginie Joron (PfE)

Subject: EUR 20 million to develop imaginary COVID-19 vaccines in 2023?

In my examination of the Commission's 2023 accounts, I read this statement by the auditors: '[...] concerning the [...] contribution to an unsuccessful development of COVID-19 vaccines[, w]e found that the Commission accepted the contractor's [vaccine manufacturer's] financial statement without analysing the underlying transactions or requesting supporting documentation, and therefore did not raise any objections to the proposed amounts [including] at least €19.6 million of commitments assumed by the contractor [which] were not incurred as expenditure¹.'

Of the eight companies that signed Advance Purchase Agreements, CureVac was the only pharmaceutical company that did not obtain a marketing authorisation for a COVID-19 vaccine².

1. Can the Commission confirm that it paid EUR 19.6 million to CureVac?
2. What is the total amount paid directly by the Commission to CureVac and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers in 2023?
3. Why did the Commission make payments in 2023 when CureVac withdrew its CVnCoV vaccine from the authorisation process in October 2021 and cancelled the contract?

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¹ Court of Auditors annual reports, point 6.37, p. 250. https://www.eca.europa.eu/ECAPublications/AR-2023/AR-2023_EN.pdf

² Court of Auditors special report, Table 1, page 9, and pages 31 and 44. https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR22_19/SR_EU_COVID_vaccine_procurement_EN.pdf.