

**Question for written answer E-002369/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Gerald Hauser (PfE)

Subject: Gain-of-function research as a security risk for the EU

Neither the Chinese nor the US Government officially disputes that the COVID-19 virus was artificially created in a laboratory as part of ‘gain-of-function’ research and that the global COVID-19 pandemic was triggered either by a laboratory accident or deliberate release. The US Government has therefore recently slashed funding for gain-of-function research or stopped it altogether in certain countries. In the last few months, a pair of Chinese researchers working at the University of Michigan was charged in the US with attempting to smuggle a dangerous pathogen – a potential bioweapon – into the United States. The US prosecutor in charge of the case described it as a matter of utmost importance for national security¹.

1. Which gain-of-function research programmes and which laboratories involved have been and are being supported financially, organisationally or with personnel by the Commission, its bodies, agencies or entities since 2015?
2. What measures has the Commission taken to prevent the import, manufacture or release of potential biological weapons in the EU?
3. Does the Commission intend to ban gain-of-function research – i.e. the artificial creation of potentially dangerous pathogens of any kind – in the future?

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¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/patel-chinese-nationals-charged-smuggling-known-agroterrorism-agent-into-us-direct-threat>