Question for written answer E-002007/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Managing the hantavirus-related health risk, transparency in EU vaccination policy and safeguards against further emergency backsliding

Recent reports of climbing hantavirus case numbers are fuelling growing public concern. A zoonotic disease carried mainly by wild rodents, hantavirus can, in some cases, lead to severe respiratory or renal complications.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, extraordinary measures were adopted to deal with the crisis; these encroached on individual freedoms and people's right to work and to free movement, with examples including controversial instruments such as the EU digital COVID certificate and strong pressure to get vaccinated.

What is more, question marks and concerns still hang over the Commission's centralised procurement of the COVID vaccines. A case in point is 'Pfizergate', which involved Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and sparked questions about the transparency of negotiations with pharmaceutical companies.

Today, many fear that future health emergencies could be used as a pretext for further curbs on human rights, without proper safeguards to ensure transparency and proportionality.

In light of the above:

1. What is the current assessment of the health risk associated with hantavirus in the EU?

2. Has the Commission ruled out introducing similar instruments to the EU digital COVID certificate in future?

3. Does it consider it appropriate to publish in full all correspondence and documents pertaining to health negotiations in the public interest where EU funds and contracts with pharmaceutical companies are involved?

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