

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000114/25
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(14 January 2025)**

Subject: France holds three times as much debt as Africa as a whole

At the Global Citizen charity concert in New York, Ursula von der Leyen announced a USD 290 million donation to Gavi, the global Vaccine Alliance, to vaccinate 500 million children ⁽¹⁾.

Gavi, the global Vaccine Alliance, is an organisation which does not provide services for free. It is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (to the tune of more than USD 6 billion) and its members include vaccine-producing laboratories and the World Bank ⁽²⁾. Other contributors include the European Union (EUR 3.2 billion), countries such as France (USD 800 million ⁽³⁾), Coca-Cola, the Mormon Church and the Rockefeller Foundation.

According to Gavi, COVID-19 ‘vaccines’ can provide critical protection for children under the age of 12 ⁽⁴⁾. Yet half of these initial doses were administered in Africa between March 2022 and November 2023, after the pandemic’s critical phase ⁽⁵⁾.

1. Will Gavi’s portfolio of vaccines for children — paid for by Europeans — contain COVID-19 vaccines?
2. Given that France’s debt is spiralling out of control (EUR 3.303 trillion ⁽⁶⁾) and is three times that of all African countries combined (EUR 1.106 trillion of debt for 1.5 billion inhabitants ⁽⁷⁾), has France approved this donation from Brussels?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(21 March 2025)**

Given the levels of coverage achieved, current epidemiology and country demand, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance’s funding to the routine COVID-19 vaccine programme will be discontinued at the end of 2025, as recommended by the Gavi Board.

Potential COVID-19 vaccine needs for a worst-case scenario after 2025 will be addressed through Gavi’s emergency response mechanisms.

The pledge of EUR 260 million (USD 290 million) announced by the President of the Commission ⁽¹⁾ in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024 is directed to support the next five-year strategic cycle called Gavi 6.0 (2026-2030) and covers the first two years of it (2026-2027) under the current EU multi-annual financial framework (MFF) ⁽²⁾.

The above-mentioned EU pledge for Gavi 6.0 has been made in full compliance with Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-GE) ⁽³⁾.

According to Article 45 of the regulation, the Commission shall be assisted by the NDICI committee ⁽⁴⁾, which is composed of representatives of all Member States.

The Committee is involved in all decisions within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 ⁽⁵⁾, including the ones related to the EU pledge made for Gavi 6.0 2026-2030 in September 2024. This EU contribution concerns only the EU budget within the limits of the current MFF.

¹ 128 September 2024; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tCA1A1_xFQ; https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_4907

² <https://www.gavi.org/our-alliance/about>; <https://urls.fr/8vPjux>

³ USD 796.8 million; <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/france>

⁴ <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covid-19-vaccines-can-provide-critical-protection-children>

⁵ All ages combined: <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-get-vaccines-remote-areas-sierra-leone-theyre-delivered-foot-boat-or-motorbike>

⁶ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/la-dette-de-la-france-atteint-le-niveau-stratospherique-de-3303-milliards-d-euros-20241220>

⁷ According to the World Bank’s International Debt Report for 2024, the total debt held by Africa, excluding North Africa, is USD 864 billion (EUR 831 billion). The debt held by the continent as a whole is USD 1.150 trillion (USD 7 billion for Algeria, USD 69 billion for Morocco, USD 41 billion for Tunisia, which is equivalent to EUR 1.106 trillion); <https://urls.fr/t7cjdp>

⁽¹⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/european-commission-pledges-eu260-million-gavi-2026-2027-and-over-eu200-million-additional-2024-09-29_en

⁽²⁾ <https://www.gavi.org/our-alliance/strategy/phase-6-2026-2030>

⁽³⁾ OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1-78, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/comitology-register/core/api/integration/ers/rulesProcedure/C84400>

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13-18, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>