

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission supports national efforts to increase vaccination coverage. The Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases¹ led to many Commission actions². The Commission is now implementing actions from the Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers³, including a joint action with EUR 20 million of EU funding⁴. Current EU4Health projects seek to improve vaccine uptake, overcome hesitancy and reduce physical barriers⁵.

Commission communication campaigns, notably *#UnitedInProtection*⁶, promote reliable, evidence-based information. The European Vaccination Information Portal⁷ provides sound and neutral information on vaccines. Joint Research Centre research offers behavioural insights on vaccination^{8,9}.

The Commission will also continue combating disinformation, including on vaccines. During the pandemic the Commission worked together with Member States to make best use of all available tools¹⁰. Since February 2025, the Code of Conduct on Disinformation¹¹ forms part of the co-regulatory framework in line with the Digital Services Act¹² including for providers of online platforms and search engines.

The Commission supports access to vaccines for Member States through joint and central procurement mechanisms¹³ that ensure access based on public health needs rather than national purchasing power. Central procurement allows the Commission to act on behalf of Member States in emergencies, simplifying negotiations and speeding up vaccine access. Following a request for assistance, vaccines can be delivered through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism¹⁴, including those part of the medical rescueEU stocks¹⁵.

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H1228\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018H1228(01)).

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/roadmap-implementation-actions_en.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202404259.

⁴ Joint Action DP/CR-g-24-28, Cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers, and addressing communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis) under the EU4Health 2024 Work Programme.

⁵ <https://overcomingobstaclestovaccination.eu/en> ; <https://euvabeco.eu/> ; <https://vax-action.eu/> ; <https://cooperatorvax.eu/>.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/783315/en#:~:text=United%20In%20Protection%20is%20an%20awareness%20campaign%20launched,to%20raise%20awareness%20of%20the%20benefits%20of%20vaccination>.

⁷ <https://vaccination-info.europa.eu/en>.

⁸ https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/behavioural-insights/about_en#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20CCBI%20is%20to%20support,space%20for%20cross-disciplinary%20exploration%20and%20innovation%20in%20policymaking.

⁹ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC131583>.

¹⁰ Joint Communication – Tackling COVID-19 disinformation: getting the facts right
https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/74655880-d534-4013-86de-9d22b521d943_en

¹¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/code-conduct-disinformation>

¹² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-services-act_en.

¹³ https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-emergency-preparedness-and-response-hera/preparedness/procurement-and-stockpiling_en.

¹⁴ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en.

¹⁵ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en#resceu-at-a-glance.