

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004406/25
to the Commission
Virginie Joron (PFE)
(7 November 2025)**

Subject: The European Medicines Agency spends EUR 72 000 on Christmas decorations

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has not been particularly transparent in its assessment of the effectiveness or safety of COVID-19 vaccines, despite the EudraVigilance registry reporting more than 12 000 people potentially killed by the vaccination.

It should be noted that in June 2023, the Commission was unaware of the total number of suspicious deaths investigated by the EMA, as well as the number of deaths for which the EMA confirmed that the vaccine was responsible or stated that this was 'probable' ⁽¹⁾.

At this time in 2024, the EMA spent EUR 72 000 on Christmas decorations through the company 'Santa's Office' ⁽²⁾.

The EMA could potentially be required to pay EUR 550 million in rent until 2039 for its empty premises in London.

1. Does the Commission place any limitations on ancillary costs for European agencies?
2. What is the total number of these suspicious deaths that have been investigated by the EMA?
3. How many deaths have been reported for which the EMA confirmed that the vaccine was responsible or stated that this was 'probable'?

Submitted: 7.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)**

European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a legal entity of the EU, endowed with its own separate legal personality and proper autonomy. Its Management Board — comprised of 35 Members from Member States, institutions as well as patient and doctor's organisation — is the integral governance body. It has a supervisory role with general responsibility for budgetary and planning matters.

The Commission ensures the sound financial management of the EU budget, including through its contributions to the decentralised agencies, through its proposed contribution in the draft annual budget proposal.

Moreover, the agencies are being regularly externally audited by the European Court of Auditors. The discharge for the implementation of these agencies' budgets must be given by the European Parliament on the recommendation of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

Regarding EMA's former premises in London, the figure mentioned corresponds to the theoretical maximum liability in the hypothetical scenario that the building remained vacant.

This does not reflect the current situation. Since its relocation in 2019, EMA secured a subtenant. The Commission is closely monitoring any developments and carefully examining them to ensure effective resolution, if needed.

EMA treats all reports of a death following the use of a medicine with utmost seriousness. These reports are routinely screened to detect any possible safety issue.

The continuous safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines has enabled the detection of side effects, which, in very exceptional circumstances, may have contributed to the death of a vaccinated individual.

The vaccines' product information highlights when a serious side effect could potentially lead to death. Apart from these very exceptional cases ⁽²⁾, there is currently no evidence suggesting that other reported deaths may be linked to COVID-19 vaccination.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001200_EN.html;
ASW_EN.html

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001200->

² https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/annual-list-contracts-2024_en.pdf

⁽¹⁾ According to Article 70(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union; OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024; ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>. Moreover, agencies' directors, who legally represent the agencies, are accountable to the European Parliament and the Council, according to the Common Approach.

⁽²⁾ Safety of COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/safety-covid-19-vaccines>.

Only a thorough scientific evaluation can determine a possible link with the vaccine ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ All safety-related information and data are published on EMA's key facts page on Covid's vaccines: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory-overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-19-medicines/covid-19-vaccines-key-facts>.