



*Brussels, 6. May 2021*

Dear President von der Leyen,  
Dear Executive Vice President Dombrovskis,  
Dear Vice President Schinas,  
Dear Commissioner Breton,  
Dear Commission Kyriakides,

late last night the United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai released a statement that the Biden-Harris administration will support the waiving of intellectual property protection for COVID-19 vaccines.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge you to drop your opposition and to actively support the adoption of the proposal for a temporary 'Waiver from certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19.

According to the data from the WHO there have been 154,815,600 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 3,236,104 deaths<sup>1</sup>. There is an urgent need for strong international collaboration to speed and scale up manufacturing, to expand the supply of effective medical technologies and to work with governments and manufacturers to ensure fair and equitable allocation of the vaccines for all countries so that everyone, no matter where they live, is protected.

We are experiencing shortages of supply and few wealthy countries were able to secure the biggest share of vaccine doses, leaving a majority of the global population living in low-and-middle income countries without any opportunity to receive vaccine

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<sup>1</sup> <https://covid19.who.int/> (6. May 2021)



doses. At the same time pharmaceutical companies approach to intellectual property remains business-as-usual, limiting manufacturing and supply capacities.

While we fully support the European Union's financial contributions to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and its vaccine pillar the COVAX Facility for the purchase of potential COVID-19 vaccines, it is simply not enough. The exclusionary effect of patents is currently leading to a limited market supply and reduced access to medicines as well as pharmaceutical products. This current global inequity on access to live saving vaccines is unacceptable. The Union needs to take concrete steps to ensure the sharing of COVID-19 vaccine technology and know-how with all potential manufacturers.

We are at crossroads and the European Union, represented by the European Commission should act in solidarity, prioritize public health and most importantly join the United States and other countries in supporting the Waiver Proposal.

Sincerely,

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