


Basic information	
2022/2076(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future Subject 4.20 Public health 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases Legislative priorities The EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">COVI</div> COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future	MONTSERRAT Dolors (EPP)	09/09/2022
		Shadow rapporteur MORETTI Alessandra (S&D) BAUZÁ DÍAZ José Ramón (Renew) METZ Tilly (Greens/EFA) TERHE Cristian (ECR) ZAMBELLI Stefania (ID) KONENÁ Kateina (The Left)	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Health and Food Safety	KYRIAKIDES Stella	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/07/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/06/2023	Vote in committee		
26/06/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0217/2023	Summary
11/07/2023	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	
12/07/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0282/2023	Summary
12/07/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/2076(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Special committee/Committee of inquiry
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55 Rules of Procedure EP 213
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	COVI/9/09469

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE739.788	13/03/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.550	14/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.555	14/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.556	14/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.557	14/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.558	14/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.656	19/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.633	20/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.634	21/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.635	21/04/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE745.549	23/05/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0217/2023	26/06/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0282/2023	12/07/2023	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2023)526	19/12/2023	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	04/05/2023	HIPRA, S.A.
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	28/04/2023	DHL Group
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	12/04/2023	Novavax
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/03/2023	SANOFI

VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/03/2023	Cabinet of the Federal Minister for Health of Belgium
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	08/03/2023	Universiteit Antwerpen
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	06/03/2023	Tijdelijke coronacommissie Tweede Kamer Nederland
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	02/03/2023	GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCATES
KONENÁ Kateina	Shadow rapporteur	COVI	01/03/2023	European public service union
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	23/02/2023	Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Ethiopia
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	09/02/2023	Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	02/02/2023	COPA-COGECA European Farming Associations
KONENÁ Kateina	Shadow rapporteur	COVI	01/02/2023	Novavax Nemec+Chvatal
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	01/02/2023	Merck
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	27/01/2023	Gilead Sciences
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	26/01/2023	Pfizer Inc.
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	26/01/2023	GSK
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	24/01/2023	Pfizer Inc.
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	23/01/2023	Farmaindustria
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	12/01/2023	European Cancer Organisation
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	12/01/2023	European Society of Cardiology
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	11/01/2023	DHL Group
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	11/01/2023	EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RARE DISEASES
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	10/01/2023	AGE Platform Europe
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	08/12/2022	MEDICINES FOR EUROPE
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	07/12/2022	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	30/11/2022	Pfizer Inc.
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	30/11/2022	Vaccines Europe
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	30/11/2022	Johnson & Johnson
MONTSEERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	29/11/2022	HIPRA, S.A.
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	25/11/2022	Pfizer Inc.
VAN BREMPT	Committee chair		23/11/2022	Pfizer Inc.

Kathleen		COVI		
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	16/11/2022	European Healthcare Distribution Association
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	15/11/2022	Novavax
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	10/11/2022	Moderna Inc.
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	08/11/2022	Valneva
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	08/11/2022	Pfizer Inc.
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/10/2022	DHL Group
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/10/2022	Emergent Solutions
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	24/10/2022	UK Vaccines Task Force
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	18/10/2022	Gouvernement of New Zealand (Health Minister)
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	13/10/2022	Novavax
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	13/10/2022	Doctors Without Borders
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	07/10/2022	Global Health Centre Geneva
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	29/09/2022	American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/09/2022	Vaccines Europe
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/09/2022	Vaccines Europe
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/09/2022	Doctors Without Borders
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/09/2022	Doctors Without Borders
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	14/09/2022	Hologic BV
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	14/09/2022	Salus European Federation for Health Promotion and Environmental Sustainability
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	09/09/2022	Fundamental Rights Agency
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	08/09/2022	CureVac SE
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	07/09/2022	PROSEGUR COMPAÑÍA DE SEGURIDAD
MONTSERRAT Dolors	Rapporteur	COVI	02/09/2022	AstraZeneca PLC
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	31/08/2022	European Ombudsman
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/07/2022	Pan American Health Organization
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/07/2022	Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	22/07/2022	Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics

VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	14/07/2022	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations Vaccines Europe
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	14/07/2022	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	12/07/2022	Union Therapeutics
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	11/07/2022	AstraZeneca PLC
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	07/07/2022	CEPHEID
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	06/07/2022	American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	23/06/2022	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	14/06/2022	SANOFI
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	13/06/2022	Aepo Artis
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	10/06/2022	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	10/06/2022	Wildlife Conservation Society
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	02/06/2022	European Public Services Union
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	31/05/2022	Moderna Inc.
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	16/05/2022	Swedish Government
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	13/05/2022	Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Committee chair	COVI	27/04/2022	Belgian Federal Government

Other Members

Name	Date	Interest representatives
LUCKE Karsten	03/07/2023	Berlin Cures
LUCKE Karsten	29/06/2023	Merck
LUCKE Karsten	06/06/2023	Vaccines Europe
LUCKE Karsten	06/06/2023	SANOFI
LUCKE Karsten	05/06/2023	Shionogi Europe B.V.
LUCKE Karsten	17/05/2023	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
LUCKE Karsten	28/03/2023	Kassenärztliche Bundesvereinigung
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	09/03/2023	Novavax
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	27/02/2023	Asociación Española de Empresas Biotecnológicas
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	23/02/2023	Instituto Carlos III
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	22/02/2023	Representación Permanente de España Ante la Unión Europea
D'AMATO Rosa	20/02/2023	Amnesty International Limited Housing Europe - European Federation for Public, Cooperative and Social Housing European Digital Media Observatory
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	20/02/2023	Marea Residencias
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	20/02/2023	HIPRA, S.A.

LUCKE Karsten	17/02/2023	Berlin Cures
METZ Tilly	16/02/2023	AGE Platform Europe EUROPEAN NETWORK ON INDEPENDENT LIVING BRUSSELS EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION Eurodiaconia European Platform for Rehabilitation Inclusion Europe aisbl. Mental Health Europe - Santé Mentale Europe Long Covid Europe
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	16/02/2023	Plataforma de Organizaciones de Pacientes
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	15/02/2023	Sindicato Unión General de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores de España
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	14/02/2023	FarmaIndustria
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	13/02/2023	Consejo General de Medicos
LUCKE Karsten	13/02/2023	Boehringer Ingelheim
METZ Tilly	07/02/2023	GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCATES
BOTENGA Marc	25/01/2023	Association Mieux Prescrire GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCATES Médecins du monde Belgique Wemos Foundation
KYMPOUROPOULOS Stelios	19/12/2022	Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	08/12/2022	Vinces Consulting
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	08/12/2022	HIPRA, S.A.
MATIAS Marisa	07/12/2022	Marea Ciudadana
LUCKE Karsten	25/11/2022	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
LUCKE Karsten	21/11/2022	CureVac SE
KYMPOUROPOULOS Stelios	09/11/2022	Novavax
D'AMATO Rosa	07/11/2022	Salus
KYMPOUROPOULOS Stelios	11/10/2022	Moderna Inc.
MALDONADO LÓPEZ Adriana	28/09/2022	Zabala Innovation Consulting, S.A.
LUCKE Karsten	08/09/2022	Berlin Cures
LUCKE Karsten	22/07/2022	Moderna Inc.
BOTENGA Marc	20/07/2022	Stichting Health Action International
FRANSSEN Cindy	13/07/2022	COVID-19 Management Strategy Expert Group (GEMS)
BOTENGA Marc	22/06/2022	European Public Health Alliance
LUCKE Karsten	21/06/2022	Vaccines Europe
FRANSSEN Cindy	17/05/2022	Kabinet Vlaams Minister Welzijn, Volksgezondheid, Gezin en Armoede
LUCKE Karsten	27/04/2022	Verband Forschender Arzneimittelhersteller e.V.
BOTENGA Marc	21/04/2022	Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs

COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future

2022/2076(INI) - 26/06/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Special Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic adopted a report by Dolors MONTSERRAT (EPP, ES) on the lessons learned and recommendations for the future.

In response to the consequences of the pandemic, the European Parliament decided to set up a special committee on Covid-19, with the aim of assessing the European Union's response to the pandemic, drawing conclusions and putting in place recommendations for the future.

This report examines the lessons learned from the crisis and makes proposals to improve crisis management and EU preparedness for future emergencies. It reflects the architecture of the Special Committee's mandate, attempting to assess the impact of the pandemic under four pillars: (1) Health; (2) A coordinated approach respecting democracy and fundamental rights; (3) Societal and economic impact; and (4) The EU and the world.

Holistic approach

The report recommended that the EU implement a holistic approach to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, so that it continues to be a global driving force in this respect and in line with the G20 Rome Declaration and the internationally agreed principles for action to fight, prepare for, prevent and respond to pandemics.

The EU has to make sure that its policies across a whole range of sectors are also preventive-health policies, integrating a One Health and Health-in-all-policies approach, throughout agriculture and food production, transport, the energy sector, industrial development, education and social services, while investing in data collection, digitalisation, sharing and analysis.

It called for the European Union to establish a European day of remembrance for the victims of COVID-19.

Building the European Health Union

Members consider that health promotion and the prevention of, preparedness for and response to existing and future cross-border threats to public health should be the cornerstones of the European Health Union. They called on Member States to invest more in primary healthcare, to develop a public health crisis management plan and to carry out urgent stress tests on their healthcare systems. They suggested using financial instruments, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) or the Cohesion Fund, and investing in a preventive approach to health, the healthcare workforce and education. They called for the organisation of healthcare services to be optimised to avoid excessive pressure on hospitals or emergency services, particularly in times of crisis.

Research and development

The report encouraged further investment in R&D oriented to address objectives of public interest, by increasing the resources of the EU framework programme for research and innovation and the EU4Health programme and establishing the emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA) as a future EU agency supporting research to make vaccines as well as innovative and other treatments available in times of crisis and beyond.

In addition, the revision of EU pharmaceutical legislation should ensure that Europe remains an attractive destination for investments in research and innovation and should create a business environment where the pharma industry works in the interest of patients and citizens.

Supply chains

Noting that the pandemic has put pressure on global supply chains, including for the pharmaceutical sector, resulting in disruptions and unpredictability in the supply of vaccines, medical supplies, equipment and other countermeasures, Members stressed the importance of introducing EU and national policies aimed at strengthening global supply chains to support the production and free flow of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, and at removing export restrictions within the single market.

It is also necessary to safeguard the transparency of production and supply chains in the event of a health crisis. The Commission and the Member States are called on to promote more joint European public procurement.

Cyber-threats

The report noted that healthcare institutions and services faced heightened cybersecurity threats in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Member States and the EU institutions and agencies are called on to introduce measures that enhance the security of digital networks in order to protect health institutions and patients from cyberattacks and to ensure the protection of health data and the ability of institutions to operate normally at all times, especially during public health emergencies, while respecting the EU data protection framework.

It reaffirmed the need to improve the security of critical infrastructure, such as power grids and financial systems, and to guarantee their functioning, while protecting them against any emergency, such as cyberattacks.

The EU is also called on to protect itself from misinformation and disinformation on social media and traditional media outlets.

Better cooperation

Members called for a stronger political will among national governments when communicating and working together under the coordination of the European Commission and the Parliament. They also called for greater European coordination for timely epidemiological forecasting and

surveillance led by the ECDC, in cooperation with the EMA, HERA and the Member States, and for studies to be carried out on the use of existing medicines on new diseases, improving the EU's overall preparedness capacity.

COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future

2022/2076(INI) - 12/07/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 385 votes to 193, with 63 abstentions, a resolution on the Covid-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future.

In response to the consequences of the pandemic, the European Parliament decided to set up a special committee on Covid-19, with the aim of assessing the European Union's response to the pandemic, drawing conclusions and putting in place recommendations for the future.

Based on the recommendations made by the special committee, this resolution examines the lessons learned from the crisis and makes proposals to improve crisis management and EU preparedness for future emergencies. It assesses the impact of the pandemic under four pillars:

1. Health

Parliament encouraged the EU and its Member States to implement the European Health Union package to develop a permanent health programme. In this context, it called on the Commission to bring forward legislative and regulatory measures to identify the basic healthcare services and minimum standards for high-quality healthcare that should be guaranteed for all throughout the EU. It stressed the importance of strengthening European and international cooperation on epidemiological surveillance through the implementation of mandatory surveillance, monitoring, alert and preparedness plans for public health threats.

Members advocated (i) strengthening the means of providing qualified staff, health equipment and materials, and medical infrastructure to meet the specific treatment needs of these patients and (ii) pursuing the digitisation of administrative services in the health sector and, wherever necessary and possible, using online healthcare services, while taking appropriate measures to protect personal data and ensure the cyber-resilience of national health systems and their infrastructure.

Parliament stressed the need for better preparation in the context of **joint purchasing procedures** for medicines and medical products. It called for contracts to be concluded and price negotiations to be conducted in a transparent manner. Recognising the importance of **Parliament's scrutiny** role, Members called for particular attention to be paid to transparency in the negotiation of joint procurement contracts.

Members believe that the EU should **reduce its dependence on trading partners** and act to avoid shortages of medicines. They stressed that the pandemic has highlighted the need to improve the **EU's strategic autonomy** in essential supply chains and critical infrastructures and services, saying that the EU should increase the share of essential medical production on its territory to strengthen the autonomy of Europe's supply chain.

Parliament encouraged continued investment in **research and development** focused on public interest objectives, by increasing resources for the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and the EU for Health Programme, and by creating HERA, the EU body that will support research to make vaccines and innovative and other treatments available in times of crisis and beyond.

Members asked the Commission to present a proposal for the revision of Council Directive 89/105/EEC relating to the **transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products**, with the aim of ensuring effective controls and full transparency on the procedures used to determine the price and reimbursement of medicinal products, particularly cancer drugs, in the Member States. They called for responsible ways to improve transparency in the financing, contracting and public procurement of vaccines.

2. Coordinated approach with respect for democracy and fundamental rights

The resolution stressed that transparency and accountability must remain a priority during crises, particularly in order to strengthen and maintain citizens' confidence in the functioning of public institutions. The Commission is called upon to ensure that the highest standards are respected to protect the public interest.

Parliament recommended that the European institutions and the Member States draw up **guidelines** on how to tackle ethical issues that may arise during a health or other crisis. These guidelines should place particular emphasis on how to protect the most vulnerable populations and ensure that their rights are safeguarded, including in crisis situations. Member States are invited to (i) **put an end to discriminatory triage practices**, in particular those based solely on age, pre-existing medical conditions and quality of life, (ii) improve access to healthcare for people with **disabilities** and (iii) address the increase in domestic violence where restrictive measures are in place and take into account the difficulties faced by LGBTQIA+ persons.

The Commission is called upon to present guidelines for health emergencies concerning the fundamental rights of children, young people and families, including guidelines for access to outdoor spaces depending on the epidemiological situation.

Members stressed that Member States must also ensure democratic control in crisis and emergency situations. They stressed the importance of ensuring **transparency in the public decision-making process**, and of involving and informing citizens in an accessible and comprehensible way.

3. Social and economic impact

Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to defend Europe's social market economy, which is resilient and responsive to crises and maintains a **genuinely business-friendly environment**, with increased access to capital, greater simplification of procedures and less red tape for European businesses, especially SMEs, to enable them to react quickly.

The resolution called for the **single market** to be strengthened and safeguarded, especially freedom of movement (of people, goods and services) in the event of future pandemics, while always taking account of public health considerations and the epidemiological situation. It stressed the need to harmonise regulations and guidelines on travel and disease screening between national Member States.

Members also called on the EU to **maximise the use of recovery funds** to strengthen the single market.

Parliament recommended:

- combatting gender-based violence in all its forms and wherever it occurs, whether inside or outside the home or in the workplace;
- gathering more information on the impact of the pandemic on children's rights, such as the right to health, the effects on psychosocial development caused by social isolation due to quarantines, and develop clear action plans for schools to address the effects of the pandemic on learning and learning outcomes;
- taking urgent action to meet the health and care needs of Europe's ageing population by promoting healthy and active ageing, and to invest in a health and care plan to meet the needs of the growing elderly population in a socially just way, including residential and care facilities.

4. The EU and the world

Parliament called for the EU to move towards **open strategic autonomy**, encouraging global diversification and resilience of supply chains and relocating production according to need in order to overcome situations of heavy dependence on third countries around an open, rules-based multilateral trading system, so as to ensure the global availability of medical products.

The EU should play a more strategic, assertive and effective role in global health and be an official observer at the WHO.

The Commission and Member States should financially support increased **local and regional production of vaccines** and encourage the transfer of knowledge, technology and other essential health products to low- and middle-income countries.

The EU should also find a constructive solution to **intellectual property protection** that provides sufficient security and incentives for investment in R&D and should include licensing agreements to increase production.

Parliament called for the obligations and enforceability of the International Health Regulations (IHR) to be simultaneously strengthened and, at the same time, for the gaps (particularly in terms of financing, equity and global governance) through the new Pandemic Treaty or another international instrument. It called on the EU and Member States to guarantee the inclusion of pandemic prevention in the treaty and to ensure that enabling the effective participation of civil society and scientists is a priority in the negotiations.

Lastly, Parliament stressed the urgent need to **increase global vaccine production in the long term** to meet global demand, and the need to invest in production capacity in low- and middle-income countries to make them self-sufficient in the long term.