

**Common statement
of Bulgaria, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary**

**concerning the procurement of medical countermeasures at European level, as well as in the
context of the Global Health Strategy, taking into account the experience on COVID-19
vaccines Agreement with Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH,
including the proposed fifth amendment**

In relation to the procurement of medical countermeasures at European level, as well as in the context of the Global Health Strategy, we, the undersigned Ministers of Health, highlight the need to respect the needs, specifics, and budgetary capacities of all Member States.

In that context we express our deep concern with regard to the suggested proposals contained in the proposed fifth Amendment to the Pfizer vaccine agreement. In our opinion these proposals do not present a final and fair solution to the problems of COVID-19 vaccine surplus and do not meet the needs of the healthcare systems, the needs of citizens and the financial interests of the Member states.

We are aware of the fact that there are Member states willing to take all planned doses and we fully respect the needs and interests of countries wishing to accede to the proposed fifth Amendment. Our opposition to accession is not meant to adversely affect these countries.

At the same time, we appeal to the European Commission and Pfizer to prepare solutions that will provide a real response to national health needs and will be beneficial for national healthcare systems of all Member States. No one should be left behind.

The upcoming amendment should reflect the public and financial interest of all Member States. The Commission should seek –for opportunities to further negotiate with Pfizer, in particular on non-delivery payments, reducing the number of contracted doses, or to take the initiative itself and buy surplus vaccines from Member States to donate to regions in need.

We call on the Commission, when acting on our behalf, to negotiate a new, fairer deal, in public interest. This requires a significant reduction in the number of doses, based on the quantities needed by the Member States. We do not agree to supplies that exceed the needs of the Member States and the Member States do not want, especially in the absence of regulatory clarity regarding continued use of further boosters. Furthermore, we underline that the proposed “flexibility fee” is a disproportionate financial burden and poses legal issues.

We call on Pfizer to maintain confidence in the vaccination process, to assume its responsibility towards EU citizens and Member states, and act in good faith towards a solution, fair to all: in the name of the common good, not only business interest.

Public health is our overriding interest, in the name of which we should all act: Members States, European Commission and Pfizer. This should be taken into account both at EU and at global level.

Asen Medzhdiev
Minister of Health
Republic of Bulgaria

Adam Niedzielski
Minister of Health
of the Republic of Poland

Arunas Dulkys
Minister of Health
of the Republic of
Lithuania

Sándor Pintér
Minister of Interior
of Hungary