

QUOTES SUPPORTING A TRIPS WAIVER AT THE WTO

"The world is suffering from vaccine inequity but the real source of the problem is a misunderstood respect for intellectual property rights. Suspend the patents and increase the production!"

Margrete Auken MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

"The waiver of COVID-19 vaccine patents is a reasonable step that the European Union should take. Now is the time to prioritise what is most important - the health of people all over the world. It is an investment that will not only save lives, but also ensure our long term resilience against COVID-19 and its variants."

Mikuláš Peksa MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

"Variants show how no one is safe until everybody is safe. We need more vaccines quickly. Lifting patents and transferring technology are absolutely key to ramping up vaccine production. Private profit should never stand in the way of public health."

Marc Botenga MEP, The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL

"There's no justification for exclusive patents for life-saving Covid 19 vaccines and related equipment during a global health crisis. As this pandemic is escalating, we have a moral, ethical and medical responsibility to overcome short-sighted capitalist self-interest in maximum profit and increase the vaccination rate rapidly. Development of these medical technologies has been made possible with large amounts of public money, so the only logical consequence is to share the intellectual property for the greater good and offer fair compensation to patent holders. The European Commission can't continue to ignore our plea and must start working together with the Member States to guarantee a temporary waiver of certain obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). We Pirates have always been calling for a reform of the excesses of patent rules which stifle innovation and fail to meet public needs."

Patrick Breyer MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

"L'Union européenne refuse toujours catégoriquement de lever les brevets sur les vaccins quand même les Etats Unis se montrent ouverts à la discussion. Elle doit absolument cesser de défendre les intérêts des lobbys et se soucier de l'intérêt général : l'accès universel au vaccin pourrait sauver des millions de vies."

Manon Aubry MEP, The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL

"It turned out once again that relying on Bigpharma's solidarity is completely nonsense. The only way to get out of this situation is to lift the patents. We have heard many promises from the European Commission and the Member States, but now is the time to act. Let's flood the world with cheap vaccines."

Kateřina Konečná MEP – The Left Group in the European Parliament – GUE/NGL

"Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. It is time for the EU to act responsibly and stop yielding to private profits. COVID-19 vaccines should be guaranteed in practice as global common goods. The waiver of patents and IP rights is the only reasonable way to ensure the widespread production of vaccines and their timely distribution to everyone, everywhere. It is the only way to ensure public health and pave the way for the recovery."

Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP, The Left Group in the European Parliament – GUE/NGL

"Across Europe, frontline workers are making huge sacrifices to save lives while people grow furious at vaccination delays—yet the EU and its Member States are still putting Big Pharma profits ahead of ramping up vaccine production. It's time for the EU to lead the G20 in supporting a TRIPS waiver so we can speed up vaccinations and avoid the risks of more endless lockdowns, rising public backlash, mutant variations and needless death."

Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary, [Public Services International](#)

Public services workers around the world are calling on governments to put people's health before profits. A waiver is desperately needed, and it is needed now. Governments, including the EU and Member States, need to stop blocking progress on making it easier to produce and share vaccines. We can't let trade rules stop universal vaccine access. No profit on the pandemic!

Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary, [European Public Service Union](#)

"This pandemic is putting us at a test, both as individuals and societies. It is also testing governments' commitment to their human rights obligation to co-operate internationally and share the benefits of scientific progress to help everyone, everywhere. Yet, COVID-19 is still spreading unabated in many parts of the world. With it comes the risk of new variants and prolonged suffering".

Jaume Vidal, Senior Policy Advisor, [Health Action International](#)

"Limiting global capacities to produce vaccines in a context of global pandemic, including through maintaining intellectual property rights on technologies that were developed mostly thanks to public funding, is a major moral failure and a nonsense in a global health perspective. Indeed, opposing the TRIPS waiver since last October has made the global community lose a precious time. It is time for Europe to go back to reason and to support the waiver."

Pauline Londeix, Co-founder, Observatoire Transparence Médicaments

"It is appalling that a few pharmaceutical companies have been allowed to make crucial decisions that concern global public health. We need to take back control to secure treatment for everybody everywhere, and it starts with supporting the TRIPS waiver."

Kenneth Haar, Researcher, [Corporate Europe Observatory](#)

"We have to admit that our reliance on voluntary cooperation and the free market has failed to protect human health and livelihoods globally. It is high time to learn lessons from the past and to resort to compulsory options. Leaders must act in the interest of millions by providing global access to vaccines. The EU must support the TRIPS waiver - it's a decisive multilateral solution on the table that will help to make health a global public good."

Elise Rodriguez, Head of Advocacy, [Global Health Advocates](#)

"The EU now has the opportunity to accomplish what was promised in April 2020. Supporting the waiver will make vaccines a global public good. This is not about protecting business, it is about Governments taking full responsibilities protecting people and saving lives."

Irene Bernal PhD, Advocacy Manager, Salud por Derecho

"L'Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale (AFEM), fédération féministe européenne dotée de statut participatif d'OING auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, appui cette position, rappelant que les droits à la vie et à la santé sont des droits humains universels consacrés par des traités de portée mondiale et européenne, que l'UE, ses institutions et ses États membres doivent sauvegarder et promouvoir, en Europe et dans le monde, en ce moment de péril pour l'humanité entière."

Catherine Sophie Dimitroulias, la Présidente, AFEM

"The European Commission must set aside corporate interests and listen to its citizens and their representatives at the European Parliament. Through the European Citizens' Initiative No Profit on Pandemic, by now over 160,000 European citizens are demanding action to ensure everyone has access to Covid-19 treatments and vaccines."

Julie Steendam, European Coordinator, Right to Cure – European Citizens' Initiative