

contract process. It was outlined that Valneva proposed a different technology and Members agreed it would be useful to have it in the portfolio.

█ - as discussions with the company were concluded, the Steering Board should decide on launching the contract process.

█ a number of exploratory discussions were carried so far.

4. Vaccination strategies

Given the various (centralised/decentralised) strategies in the Member States, the Members enquired about the best framework for a discussion in the SB.

The Commission and the Members agreed on the importance of **unity** amongst the Member States regarding the implementation of the vaccines strategies.

The importance of **waiting for the formal evaluation** and the **(conditional) marketing authorisation** was also underlined. Such authorisation provides for a controlled and robust framework for assessment and is different from Emergency Use Authorisations, which will be used by other countries.

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The Members expressed the wish to have a **platform** where to share the **national vaccination strategies**, which are also discussed in the HSC.

█ informed about the creation of an informal **Group on Vaccination Strategy and Logistics** and invited MSs to attend and to extend the invitation to the experts on vaccination strategy and/ or logistics.

5. COVAX

The Commission provided an update on the state of play on the **COVAX APAs** and informed that █ doses were negotiated (via MoUs), as follows:

- █,
- █,
- █ with the █ (█ and █)

█ presented at length the **concept paper on donations**, outlining:

- (i) the **objectives**- securing access to the vaccine for the top priority group and the most vulnerable around the world;

- (ii) the **principles**: it was outlined that an EU-coordinated approach was essential and that deciding at the EU level allowed setting up one efficient mechanism to channel donations and make sure they are allocated where they are most needed;
- (iii) options for the concrete functioning of an **EU-coordinated donation mechanism** based on the EU Covid-19 vaccines' portfolio.

Furthermore, [REDACTED] indicate that:

- the donation mechanism should provide [REDACTED]
- to avoid logistical hurdles and save costs, the donation mechanism should envisage the **direct sending of the doses to the recipient**.

The Members were encouraged to provide comments on the paper. A **subgroup on vaccine donation**, reporting to the Steering Board, will be set up. Member States will be invited to nominate representatives in this subgroup.

The Commission also underlined that:

- the EU MSs should donate together thus to build a common EU pot of vaccines;
- three target groups have been identified: [REDACTED].