Minutes: Steering Board meeting, 4 December 2020

1. Update on the Moderna contract

The Members were informed that the contract was submitted to Moderna and to Commissioner Kyriakides for signature. Next steps were also indicated.

2. Update on the allocation of doses

The [REDACTED] for Moderna was open and Members provided feedback on the base volume but also, in parallel, expressed preferences as regards [REDACTED].

A revised version of the table with a new indicative column on donation would be circulated, while the feasibility and conditions for donation would be further discussed, including in a dedicated subgroup.

Pfizer/BioNTech — the members were informed that the Commission received Word version of Order forms and invited them to submit the forms as soon as possible.

The Commission informed that Pfizer was trying to accommodate the batch size with the demands from the MSs, consequently it was possible that some MSs would receive [REDACTED] for which the consent of the MSs would be required. This would not affect the first deliveries [REDACTED]. Some MSs requested a more [REDACTED] of the vaccines volume [REDACTED].

The Members were reassured that the submission of the corrected Order Forms would not delay the schedule for delivery as Pfizer considered they had received the Order Form on [REDACTED].

3. Update on contracts in the [REDACTED] and discussions with other companies

Novavax - a meeting was organised to clarify the last pending key issues [REDACTED]. The Commission announced the end of the exploratory talks and the intention to go into the [REDACTED]. The Members were informed on key elements of the envisaged contract (price, upfront payment, delivery schedule etc.).

Valneva – exploratory talks were over. The Members were informed on key elements of the envisaged contract (price, volume, upfront payment etc).
The Members were in favour of launching the contract. It was outlined that Valneva proposed a different technology and Members agreed it would be useful to have it in the portfolio.

- discussions with the company were over and the Steering Committee should decided.

exploratory talks continued.

It was suggested that a strategic discussion should take place on how to handle future vaccine candidates.

4. Discussion on national vaccination strategies and logistics

Member States exchanged on the starting point and schedule of the national vaccination strategies.

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

The importance of waiting for the formal EMA evaluation and the (conditional) marketing authorisation was also underlined.

The Commission provided an update on the state of play on the Joint Procurement for needles and syringes.

5. COVAX

The Commission provided an update on the state of play on the COVAX APAs.

Regarding donations, the importance of an early delivery was outlined.

The Members were reminded that a subgroup on vaccine donation, reporting to the Steering Board, would be set up with a 1st meeting on Thursday, 10 December. Member States were invited to nominate representatives in this subgroup.

The Commission also underlined that the Council Conclusions of the next EUCO would probably contain a point on donations.