

Mr Pascal Soriot
Chief Executive Officer
AstraZeneca Plc
Cambridge
United Kingdom

(delivery per email)

Helsinki, 26 January 2021

Dear Mr Soriot,

As the coronavirus continues to spread and mutate in Europe and around the world, the speedy access to safe and efficacious vaccines has never been so critical. The collaboration between the Member States of the European Union has been instrumental in securing the procurement of covid-19 vaccines for the Union. We were hoping that the upcoming EU approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine would enable us to roll out the process of vaccinating our populations in a large scale, beyond the initial risk groups.

However, the sudden information received from AstraZeneca last Friday about a significant reduction in vaccine deliveries to the EU during the upcoming months, has left us with great disbelief and anxiety. This development risks to jeopardize the implementation of the Finnish vaccination programme which heavily relies on AstraZeneca honoring its delivery commitments set out in the Advance Purchase Agreement signed on 27 August 2020.

Receiving this information from the company at such a late stage and the continued lack of clarity in terms of deliveries during the coming months make it very difficult for our local authorities to plan their vaccination activities. Finland is not alone in this extremely unfortunate situation which affects Europe as a whole. The confusion created may also have a negative impact on the public trust in covid-19 vaccines. So let me be clear: AstraZeneca must be more forthcoming and proactive in its communication, especially when it comes to disturbances in planned production and delivery schedules.

The European Union has made significant investment through public funding in the research and development of vaccines and the scaling up of production capacity in the EU. I would like to underline that this investment must be turned into concrete results through steady and reliable delivery of vaccines to the EU Member States.

I would insist that AstraZeneca takes all necessary steps and turns every stone to ensure that the deliveries of the vaccines are expedited immediately after the marketing authorization has been granted by the European Commission, while not compromising on safety and good manufacturing practices. I find it unacceptable that the deliveries to the EU will be delayed while some other countries are receiving ample amounts of vaccines.

Yours Sincerely,



Krista Kiuru
Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland

cc: Ms Stella Kyriakides
Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
European Commission