To the attention of:

*EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides*

*European Medicines Agency Executive Director Emer Cooke*

*Slovak Republic Minister of Health Vladimír Lengvarský*

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

Dear Ms Cooke,

Dear Mr Lengvarský

Brussels 9 April 2021

The announcement about the difference in quality between the batches of Russian vaccine Sputnik V delivered to Slovakia from those reviewed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a big concern for Europeans. Ctizens rely on the EU regulator and national health authorities to receive safe and scientifically tested vaccines. The case of Sputnik V vaccine product shows that single Member States can become victims of unfair commercial practices when dealing bilaterally with Russia. The issue is even more alarming as it represents direct risk to human health, at the moment when we do all possible efforts on the European and national level to provide safe vaccines and boost people’s confidence.

I am aware of the Russian Direct Investment Fund’s request to send back the doses after Slovakia’s State Institute for Drug Control discovered they differed from the doses sent to EMA and The Lancet magazine. I believe this precedent requires maximum attentiveness from the part of EMA which needs to carefully look into parameters and characteristics of doses received by Slovakia. Considering that Slovakian drug agency could not fulfil the complete examination because the Russian side did not provide necessary documents on safety, **I call for a specific analysis by EMA of the doses in question and I ask Slovakian authorities to facilitate their delivery to the European drug regulator**. As an MEP, I rely on Commission’s scrutiny over the process of vaccine assessment and ask to put the best interest of European citizens at the centre.

At the moment when only around 4.3% of the Russian population have got Sputnik V shot, Russia’s promotion of the jab to the EU countries is a clear geopolitical aggressive tool aiming among others to undermine EU’s common position on vaccine scientific rigour. We should by all means protect our citizens from pharmaceutical fraud, and I call for an enhanced effort of EU and national authorities to prevent this.

I sincerely hope to see soon the results of EMA’s analysis of Sputnik V vaccines delivered to Slovakia and I stand together with the citizens who, as me, await a thorough scientific conclusion.

Sincerely yours,

Vlad Gheorghe MEP, Renew Europe