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European Union Committee

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28 October 2020

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Alok,

EM 9021/20: Communication from the Commission: EU Strategy for COVID-19 vaccines

Thank you for your letter dated 23 September on the above Communication, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 28 October.

We note your response that the Commission requested a decision regarding participation in the initiative before it had completed any negotiations with vaccine companies, which meant it was not possible to confirm specific terms and prices. We also note that your officials determined likely pricing strategies as a proxy for a firm assessment regarding the relative speed and cost of developing and gaining access to vaccines through the EU initiative compared to the Government's approach.

We are now content to close this correspondence.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash, the Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and the BEIS Parliamentary Scrutiny Team.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee