

## Cyprus to Purchase Russia's Sputnik Vaccine

The Cypriot government will purchase 50,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine once it is approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), a government official in Nicosia has said.

By [Sarantis Michalopoulos](#)

Global Research, March 17, 2021

[EURACTIV.com](#) 16 March 2021

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Science and Medicine](#)

All Global Research articles **can be read in 27 languages by activating the “Translate Website”** drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

\*\*\*

*“It will be a bilateral agreement, which was already approved a couple of weeks ago,” government spokesperson Kyriakos Kousios told state radio.*

“This issue is being handled by the minister of health and the relevant officials. Once we have the vaccine approved, we will proceed with the purchase,” Kousios said, explaining that more than 50,000 doses may be purchased, depending on the flows of the other vaccines.

Russia's Sputnik has been in the EU drugs agency's rolling review but no official application for authorisation has been made.

EU Commission spokesperson Stefan De Keersmaecker reiterated on Monday (15 March) that there were no official talks between the EU and Moscow.

However, the head of Russia's Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), Kirill Dmitriev, said in a statement on Monday that his organisation had secured agreements with companies from Italy, Spain, France and Germany to produce Sputnik V, *AFP* reported.

Hungary has already purchased Sputnik while the Czech Republic and Slovakia have made orders. Critics suggest that approving Sputnik would be a “major political defeat” for Europe and respectively, a “major diplomatic victory” for Vladimir Putin.

The issue has so far divided EU member states as some of them remain sceptical about what they think could be Moscow's hidden agenda.

Poland's former prime minister Donald Tusk, the current chief of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP), [recently called on Europeans](#) not to be “naïve” when it comes to Russian and Chinese vaccines.

“I warn against such a naive approach to these very cynical players. I am talking about the Chinese and Russian authorities. And above all, I would warn

the Polish authorities, and also other European countries, against buying and trying to vaccinate their citizens with a vaccine that has not been tested," Tusk said.

The vast majority of Western Balkan countries have already started vaccinating their citizens with Sputnik while Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić has said the EU had "abandoned" the region when it comes to vaccines.

'Possible' to approve Sputnik

EU sources have told EURACTIV that it is "possible" for the EMA to approve Russia's Sputnik vaccine. "Negotiations could start if at least four member states ask so," the sources added.

The same sources explained, though, that with the vaccines approved so far, the EU objective to vaccinate 70% of the EU population by September is "still possible".

However, the delivery delays of approved vaccines and the new stalemate with AstraZeneca pave the way for reconsidering Sputnik.

"When it comes to public health, there is no room for political considerations. We fully rely on the scientific evaluation of EMA," the sources added.

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Featured image is from [Shutterstock/vovidzha](#)

The original source of this article is [EURACTIV.com](#)

Copyright © [Sarantis Michalopoulos](#), [EURACTIV.com](#), 2021

---

**[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)**

**[Become a Member of Global Research](#)**

Articles by: [Sarantis Michalopoulos](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)