**PRESSEMITTEILUNG**

**Biotechnology industry regrets WTO decision on patent suspensions**

(Berlin - June 17, 2022) The German biotechnology industry association BIO Deutschland regrets the decision by the WTO to temporarily suspend patent protection for COVID19 vaccines in certain countries.

Oliver Schacht, CEO of BIO Deutschland comments, "The suspension of patent protection for COVID19 vaccines will not really bring us any closer to the goal of rapid availability and, more importantly, administration of these vaccines in developing countries. The production of the vaccines is complex, needs a lot of know-how and stable supply chains. In order to achieve a high vaccination rate locally, an appropriate infrastructure and a high level of acceptance among the population are also necessary. This is the main area where efforts should be made to increase vaccination rates. The suspension of patent protection, on the other hand, is a fatal signal for innovative companies and their investors."

*135 words /878 characters*

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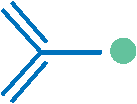
**About BIO Deutschland:**

As Germany’s national biotechnology industry association, BIO Deutschland aims to support and promote the development of an innovative economic sector based on modern biosciences. The Berlin-based association currently has some 360 members, ranging from companies and bioregions to industry services providers. **Oliver Schacht**, Ph.D.,is Chairman of the Board of BIO Deutschland.

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** Contact**

BIO Deutschland e. V.

Dr. Claudia Englbrecht

Schützenstraße 6a

10117 Berlin

Tel.: +49-30-2332 164-32

Mobile: +49 151 14067326

E-Mail: englbrecht@biodeutschland.org

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