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Austria in Talks to Buy 1M Sputnik V Doses

By AFP

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Austria is allegedly negotiating with Russia the possible purchase of 1 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine. **Moskva News Agency**

Austria said on Tuesday it was negotiating with Russia over the possible purchase of 1 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine — which has yet to be approved by EU regulators.

Though EU member Hungary is already administering Sputnik V and a total of 57 countries have authorized its use, according to the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), it is still under review by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

Related article: Explainer: Sputnik V's Road to the European Market

The office of Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz told AFP on Tuesday that the talks had started on Feb. 26 over the delivery of 300,000 doses in April, 500,000 in May and 200,000 in

early June 2021, but added that no agreement had been made.

Earlier this month, Kurz and five other central and eastern EU leaders urged Brussels to find a "correction mechanism" to fix what they called the unfair distribution of coronavirus vaccines within the bloc.

"If Austria receives an additional 1 million vaccine doses, we will be able to return to normality faster and could save many lives as well as jobs," Kurz said.

"There should be no geopolitical blinkers when it comes to the vaccine. The only thing that should matter is whether the vaccine is effective and safe, and not where it comes from."

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