COVID-19 EU Briefing 06 July 2020

Synopsis

The expectations of the German Council Presidency are high and include nothing less than to deal After the US was quick to buy up the majority of Remdesivir, the EU granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the medicine over the weekend. The Guardian has created a COVID-19 vaccine tracker to keep up to date on how close we are to find a treatment. Meanwhile, a second region in Spain has been put under lockdown and Serbia has declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19 on 3 July.

General

Recovery

MFF

- **Council President Charles Michel** is likely to publish his negotiating box to diplomats on Thursday.
    - o Politico reported that Coreper Ambassadors have begun to put the MFF and Recovery Fund on the agenda as a standard item.
- The **European Parliament** has published its second COVID-19 Newsletter on the COVID-19 exit strategy.
    - o It focuses on the de-confinement strategies and EU measures to support the economic recovery.

Vaccines

- The **Health Security Committee** met once again on 26 June.
    - o The Commission presented an updated draft blueprint for EU vaccination plan for COVID-19:
    - o The Commission noted that regarding the opening of borders with third countries, some Member States asked that data on testing is included in criteria.
- The European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the medicine Remdesivir, making it the first medicine authorised at EU level for treatment against COVID-19.

Workers' Rights

- **UNI Global Union Europa** have published a press release calling for 'concrete and rapid actions' to ensure workers are involved in managing the Covid-19 impact on their companies.
    - The Union calls for 'social dialogue, collective bargaining and worker involvement in the workplace'.
    - They criticised companies who have not complied with their legal obligations and consulted worker's representations before taking decisions that impact jobs and working conditions.

- The Union calls for workplace representatives to have:
    - Access to meaningful and comprehensive up-to-date information about the likely impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the company
    - Enough time and resources to run in-depth assessment of the information provided
    - The genuine opportunity to discuss those alternatives with real decision-makers
    - The guarantee that non-compliance with information, consultation and participation obligations warrant deterrent sanctions

Member States

Greece

- **Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis** told The Financial Times in an [interview](#) that Athens will not accept money under the Recovery fund to come under strict conditions, meaning they will not accept Troika-style conditionality.

Latvia

- The European Commission [announced](#) that they had approved a €250 million Latvian measure to recapitalise airBaltic.
    - Among other conditions, airBaltic is subject to bans on dividends and share buybacks.

Serbia

- A state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic was declared on 3 July. Meanwhile, the Greek government has announced that all Serbs will be banned from arriving in Greece until 15 July.

Spain

- Spain on Sunday put a second region back into lockdown in 24 hours after a spike in Covid-19 infections.

Source: DeHavilland EU