

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 28 July 2020

### Synopsis

The European Commission is in the process of establishing its new Covid-19 recovery taskforce. Meanwhile, restrictions are being re-enforced in Belgium after a wave of new infections. In Germany, the Health Minister has announced mandatory testing for people arriving from countries considered to be in the Covid-19 high-risk category.

### General

#### Recovery

#### Recovery Fund

##### Covid-19 Taskforce

- **Politico** reported that the European Commission's new Covid-19 recovery task force will be steered by a group including Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and her top deputies. Paolo Gentiloni is the only commissioner on the steering board.

##### Fabio Panetta Interview

- **Fabio Panetta**, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB, has taken part in an [interview](#) in which he discussed the Covid-19 Recovery Fund. He has called it a potential 'turning point'. However, he notes that this will depend on the economic policies adopted by individual countries. Additionally, he believes the issuing of debt marks progress towards a genuine capital markets union.

##### Member states

##### Belgium

- Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes has confirmed that people will have to reduce their close social contacts from 15 to 5 following an initial relaxation of the rules.
- Antwerp announced a curfew from 11:30 p.m. to 6 a.m., with only those going to work or the hospital allowed outside their homes.
- Wilmes also announced that the measure to grant free train journeys to citizens will be postponed until September.

##### Germany

- The German Government has [announced](#) that they will introduce mandatory Covid-19 testing for those returning from countries designated as high-risk. The tests will be free of charge. The measure will come in to effect next week.

## Greece

**Ekathimerini** has [reported](#) that the Greek Government are considering expanding the mandatory wearing of masks across more indoor spaces. Currently, there is a requirement to wear masks in supermarkets.

Source: DeHavilland EU