

COVID-19 EU Briefing 30 July 2020

Synopsis

Angela Merkel, Ursula von der Leyen and David Sassoli have stated that a final agreement on the MFF 2021-2027 must be reached by October. Meanwhile, the national leaders in France, Germany, Italy and Spain, Dr Merkel has received the highest approval rating for her handling of the Covid-19 crisis. In Poland, consideration is being given to enforcing new quarantine measures for people returning home from countries with high infection rates.

General

Recovery

Recovery Plan & MFF

- As part of a European Commission [readout](#), Angela Merkel, Commission President von der Leyen and David Sassoli stated in unison that an agreement on the MFF 2021-2027 was needed by October.
- The three leaders agreed on a method and calendar to ensure that the MFF and NGEU Recovery Plan is in place by the beginning of January,
- Renew Group leader Dacian Cioloş wrote to the German EU Affairs Minister Michael Roth, asking him to “accelerate the work in Council on the 2018 Commission proposal” on the issue of rule all law and its absorption into the final agreement.

Euro Area Labour Market

- The **ECB** has [published](#) a preliminary assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the euro area labour market. It notes the moderate increase in the unemployment rate up to the end of May is in sharp contrast with indicators of economic activity. It concludes that the use of short-term work schemes is a key factor in overall muted immediate response of the labour market to the COVID-19 crisis.

Member States

EU Leaders Approval Ratings

- The results of a **Euronews Poll** on approval ratings for national leaders in response to the COVID-19 crisis have been published. The poll was conducted across Germany, Italy, France and Spain. Angela Merkel received the highest approval rating (66%), Emmanuel Macron (31%). Meanwhile, 47.5% of Germans felt the worst of the pandemic was behind them.

Poland

- **Reuters** has [reported](#) that Poland is considering reinstating quarantine measures for people returning home from certain countries, both in and outside the EU. A government spokesman

cited Spain and France as country's that are of particular concern in light of the their increased Covid-19 infection rate. Poland is itself experiencing a spike in infections, with 584 infections reported on 25 July – the second highest number since the pandemic began.

The Netherlands

- The **national statistics agency in the Netherlands** has [suggested](#) that the actual death rate from Covid-19 could be 100% higher than previously reported. The finding came after the agency introduced a new method to calculate excess deaths.

Source: DeHavilland EU