

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 9 September 2020

### Synopsis

Ahead of next week's State of the Union speech by Commission President von der Leyen, the Commission is expected to publish its foresight report today and Council President Michel pushed Member States to create new revenue streams for the EU institutions. Furthermore, one day earlier than expected, it was announced that next week's plenary session reportedly will take place in Brussels.

### General

#### Recovery

##### European Institutions

- The **European Parliament** plenary session which was originally to be held in Strasbourg has now been cancelled in response to a spike in cases of COVID-19 in the Strasbourg area of France. It will now take place in Brussels between 14 and 17 September.
- French Prime Minister Jean Castex told European Parliament President David Sassoli of his "vivid regrets".

#### Recovery

- The European Commission is scheduled to publish its foresight report today which will inform the European Commission's work programme.
  - Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič said that the key theme of the report will be resilience.
- **European Council President Charles Michel** pushed EU member states to act on creating new and permanent revenue streams for the EU institutions.
  - Mr Michel specifically referenced the creation of a carbon border adjustment mechanism with an improved Emissions Trading System.
- The European Parliament's **Committee on Regional Development (REGI)** has [adopted](#) its report on REACT-EU.
  - The scheme seeks to mitigate the immediate economic and social impact of the Covid-19 crisis in the worst hit areas.
  - REGI MEPs called for the budget to remain at the Commission's proposed level of 55 billion Euros, despite the Council's proposed cuts to the scheme in July.
  - MEPs also agreed that expenditure for operations covered should be eligible as of 1 February 2020.
  - The report also stated that EU countries should be able use the additional resources also in 2023 and 2024, beyond the Commission 2022 deadline.

## Vaccine

- **Politico** [reported](#) that AstraZeneca has paused clinical trials of its coronavirus vaccine to review safety data while it investigates a “single event” of illness among a person enrolled in one of its studies.

## **Recovery**

### Member States

Infection Rate (measured by positive cases per 100,000 over 14 days)

- After a brief respite, Spain's infection rate (240.6 – 255.9) has risen significantly (07/09 compared to 08/09). Meanwhile, Hungary (33.1- 38.6), despite recording moderate infection rates prior to September, has recorded another steep rise. Other countries to record notable rises include: the United Kingdom (32.3 – 35.2), Denmark (24.5 – 29.6) and Sweden (19.7 – 24.7). The average infection rate among the EU 27+1 has continued to climb (49.3 – 51.1).

### Germany

- The **Financial Times** [reported](#) that German exports rose 4.7% month-on-month in July, their third consecutive increase during the pandemic.

### France

- The **Financial Times** [reported](#) that in France exports grew 9.6% and that economic activity had recovered to about 95 per cent of pre-crisis levels in August.
- French Prime Minister Jean Castex will be tested for coronavirus and self-isolate, after coming into contact with Tour de France race director Christian Prudhomme, who was tested positive for the virus.
- The government has said that while it will do all it can to avoid another nationwide lockdown, such as that imposed across the country from March to May, it will nevertheless keep all its options open.

Source: DeHavilland EU