

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 10 September 2020

### Synopsis

The Commission has concluded exploratory talks with another potential vaccine provider while we are seeing the EU average infection rate still increasing.

### General

#### Recovery

##### European Institutions

- **Politico** reported that the EPP have postponed an upcoming decision into whether Fidesz can remain a member of the grouping due to COVID-19. EPP President. Donald Tusk told MEPs that a sufficient number of member parties (14) had asked for the exclusion of Viktor Orbán's Fidesz.
- The next EPP Congress has been postponed from June to October 2021.

##### Transport

- **Politico** [reported](#) that Germany's train network operator Deutsche Bahn has released a study to demonstrate that taking a train does not come with a high risk of coronavirus infection.
- The **IMO** have [estimated](#) that more than 300,000 seafarers and marine personnel are currently stranded at sea and unable to be repatriated despite the expiry of their contracts, urging crew changes to resolve a "humanitarian crisis".

##### Budget

- The EU ambassadors [agreed](#) the Council's position on the 2021 EU draft budget. In total, the Council's position for next year's budget amounts to €162.9 billion in commitments and €164.8 billion in payments.
  - The Council is expected to formally adopt its position at the end of September and will submit it to the Parliament on 1 October.
  - The European Parliament is expected to adopt its amendments to the Council's position in the week starting 9 November.
  - If the Council's and the Parliament's positions diverge, a three-week conciliation period will start on 17 November

##### Vaccine

- The European Commission [has concluded](#) exploratory talks with BioNTech-Pfizer to purchase a potential vaccine against COVID-19. A potential contract will enable the Commission to purchase 200 million doses on behalf of all EU Member States, plus an option to purchase up to a further 100 million doses, to be supplied once a vaccine has proven to be safe and effective against COVID-19.

## Recovery

### Member States

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

- Spain (255.9 - 259.8) and France (125.5 – 130.4) recorded a medium increase in the infection rate, as they continue to cover two of the three top places with Luxembourg. On the other hand, smaller decreases were seen for Croatia (92.5 – 92.1), Bulgaria (25.1 -24.6), Poland (23.2 – 22.3) and Germany (21 -20.5), while Malta's rate (82.9 – 79.8) has also started to decline.

#### Spain

- Spain will negotiate with Britain, Germany and Scandinavian countries to open travel corridors to the Balearics and Canaries islands, so that travellers will be exempted from self-quarantine.

#### Austria

- As Austria recorded 563 new COVID-19 cases within the past 24 hours on Wednesday, its daily infection rate has reached a level that was last seen in April.

#### Czech Republic

- Belgium and Germany decided to place Prague on their lists of high-risk regions.
- At the same time, Czech health minister Adam Vojtěch announced the reintroduction of country-wide obligations to wear face masks in indoor spaces, albeit not in classrooms.

Source: DeHavilland EU