

COVID-19 EU Briefing 11 September 2020

Synopsis

While the Recovery Package still awaits its final approval, the Italian government has already announced its plans of investing the allotted amount. Furthermore, more infection rate increases have been reported than decreases, resulting in a slightly higher average.

General

Recovery

Recovery Plan

- On Thursday, the Italian government presented its plans for investing the €209 billion under the recovery package.
- Rome's priorities are digitalization, greening the economy, increasing competitiveness, physical and digital infrastructure, health, equality and education.
- Along with investments, the government also plans a number of reforms including reducing the tax burden on workers, shortening the length of judicial procedures and simplifying civil service bureaucracy.

Vaccine

- The European Commission and the WHO [launched](#) and co-hosted the first meeting of the High Level Facilitation Council, leading the work of the global collaborative framework Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (the ACT-A) to speed up the development and deployment of vaccines, tests and treatments against COVID-19.
- 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)

- The Czech Republic's infection rate has risen substantially from 68.8 to 75.9 (09/09 compared to 10/09). Further significant rises have been recorded in Spain (259.8 – 263.2), France (130.4 – 135.1), Austria (49.2 – 55.9), and Belgium (49.2 – 54). However, Malta (79.8 – 74.6) and Ireland (38.3 – 36.7) have reported decreases in their infection rates. Yet, the average across the EU27+1 continues to rise (52 to 53.7).

Belgium

- The launch of a nationwide Covid-19 tracing app has been postponed by a week as the developers are still waiting for an EU opinion on the issue.

Finland

- The Finnish government [relaxed](#) on Thursday evening internal border traffic restrictions.
- In particular, travelling to Finland without having to undergo a two-week quarantine will still apply to travellers from countries with up to 25 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to the current eight cases.
- In order to enter Finland from countries with more cases, travellers have to present a negative coronavirus test result.

Portugal

- From Tuesday, Portugal will be in a contingency situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, limiting gatherings to 10 people.
- The country was also taken off the UK's travel corridors' list.

France

- French authorities confirmed 9,843 new coronavirus infections on Thursday, surpassing, by 900, its previous daily record.

Source: DeHavilland EU