COVID-19 EU Briefing 18 September 2020

Synopsis

Additional restrictions will be introduced in countries where the infection rate is steadily increasing. The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling on Member States to introduce similar restrictions when facing a similar amount of cases.

General

Recovery & Resilience Facility

- The European Commission published an outline of the Recovery & Resilience Facility, and what each country will receive as part of the package.
  - Each member state will receive 70% of the allocation in 2021-2022, and the remaining 30% in 2023, with Italy being confirmed as the largest beneficiary of funds.
  - Euractiv reported the words of an EU official, who said that the approval process for the EU’s €750bn recovery funds may take longer than foreseen, and it would be optimistic to expect the first disbursements by mid-2021.
  - Please find the list of each member states disbursal here
  - Each EU Member State will also need to submit a plan to the Commission setting out their proposed allocation.

Measures

- The EP Plenary adopted a resolution calling for a harmonised methodology to collect and evaluate the number of infected people, otherwise it will lead to differing health risk assessments and restrictions of free movement for people travelling from other EU countries.
- The Parliament urged MS to adopt the same definition for a positive case of COVID-19, for a death by COVID-19 and for recovery from infection, mutually recognise test results in all member states, establish a common quarantine period and coordinate travel restrictions.

Tourism

- According to Reuters, leaders of Europe’s travel and tourism industries have appealed to the EU’s chief executive to press governments to end quarantine requirements and instead embrace coordinated restrictions and testing.

Member States

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

- Malta’s infection rate has jumped from 105.8 to 127.2 (16/09 compared to 17/09).
- The Czech Republic (129.4 – 143.3), Luxembourg (98.9 – 105.7) and Denmark (52.4 – 58.1) have also reported a significant rise.
- Meanwhile, Croatia (81.8 – 81.1) and Lithuania (18.4 – 17.3) have recorded a decline in their infection rate.
• The average amongst the EU27+1 has risen from 64 to 67.1.

The Netherlands

• The Netherlands has seen a record number of new Covid-19 infections in 24 hours for the third day in a row, as the country approaches 100,000 infections since the start of the virus.
• Health Minister De Jonge and Prime Minister Rutte are expected to announce new measures in the areas of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Delft, and Leiden at a press conference later today.
  o High on the list of restrictions seem to be earlier closing times of cafes and bars as well as a possible curfew. Students are suspected to be the main spreaders with 80% of infected people in Delft being students.

Austria

• New coronavirus restrictions, which include limiting private indoor gatherings to ten persons, making mask wearing mandatory at outdoor fairs and markets, as well as allowing only 10 people per table in restaurants, will come into force on Monday 21 September.

The Czech Republic

• Students at elementary schools and secondary schools will be required to wear face masks, even during lessons. And bars and clubs across the country will have to close at midnight.

France

• France is to implement extra measures to curb the COVID-19 epidemic in the cities of Lyon and Nice, where local authorities have to submit their plans for extra measures until the weekend.

Source: DeHavilandEU