

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 12 October 2020

General

### Recovery

#### MFF

- **Politico** reported that the first formal trilogue on a rule-of-law mechanism to be attached to the EU budget will be held today.
- Most member states want a system which is less tough than those proposed by the European Commission in 2018.
- The Council's negotiator Michael Clauss said that he was upbeat about the chances of an agreement.

#### Recovery & Resilience Facility

- The Council [agreed](#) its position on the Recovery and Resilience Facility, designed to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges posed by the green and digital transitions.
- The Recovery and Resilience Facility will offer member states €312.5 billion in grants (in 2018 prices), of which 70% would be committed in 2021 and 2022 and 30% by the end of 2023.

#### *Next steps:*

- **Politico** [reported](#) that Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni will invite the European Parliament and members of national parliaments to an interparliamentary conference on the EU's debt rule.
- Member states may submit their draft plans to the Commission from 15 October and are expected to present their plans officially by 30 April at the latest.
- The Recovery and Resilience Facility will have to be negotiated now between the European Parliament and the Council.
- The Parliament has not yet voted on its position.

### Member States

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

- The infection rate of Belgium has risen from 246 to 364.1 (08/10 compared to 11/10).
- The Czech Republic (374.6 – 423.7), the Netherlands (285.4 – 344.6), the United Kingdom (201.9 – 242.2) and Malta (118.5 – 152.4) have also recorded notable increases.
- However, Denmark's infection rate has declined from 109.4 to 101.1.
- The average infection rate across the EU27+1 has risen from 121.8 – 147.7.
- The average amongst the EU27+1 has risen from 117.6 to 120.5.

#### Germany

- **Chancellor Merkel** [met](#) with mayors of Germany's 11 biggest cities, agreeing that a further round of regulations would be imposed in areas where new infections exceed a threshold of 50 cases per 100,000 population in a week.
- These would include tighter rules on mask-wearing, upper limits on the size of private gatherings and curbs on the sale of alcohol.

#### France

- The number of new coronavirus infections in France jumped more than 20,000 in one day for the first time since the start of the epidemic. The ministry reported 20,330 new infections, taking the cumulative total to 691,977 since the start of the year.

#### Slovakia

- Slovakia will put in place stricter measures from Thursday to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, including a requirement to wear face masks in public and limits to public gatherings, its health minister [said](#) on Sunday.

#### Spain & Portugal

- Spain and Portugal [want](#) to cooperate in areas such as hydrogen, a joint 5G network, a battery value chain and satellites technology and these projects could be included in their respective EU national recovery plans, to be financed with EU funds.

#### Czech Republic

- Stricter measures should be imposed on Wednesday 14 October, in the country, although the government has not yet confirmed any details.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*