

COVID-19 EU Briefing 13 October 2020

General

Recovery

MFF

- Following the first meeting of budget rule of law conditionality negotiations between the European Parliament and Council, Finnish EPP MEP Petri Sarvamaa said told Politico that the meeting was a “decent start” with a “constructive atmosphere.”

Coordination

- The Council [decided](#) on Friday on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Member States that consider necessary to introduce restrictions to free movement could require persons travelling from an area classified other than ‘green’ pursuant to undergo quarantine / self-isolation; and/or undergo a test for COVID-19 infection after arrival.

Key criteria:

- The ‘14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate’, meaning the total number of newly notified COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population in the last 14 days.
- The ‘test positivity rate’, meaning the percentage of positive tests among all tests for COVID-19 infection carried out during the last week.
- The ‘testing rate’, that is, the number of tests for COVID-19 infection per 100 000 population carried out during the last week.

Colour coding from the ECDC:

- **Green**, if the 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate is less than 25 and the test positivity rate of tests for COVID-19 infection is less than 4%.
- **Orange**, if the 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate is less than 50 but the test positivity rate of tests for COVID-19 infection is 4% or more, or, if the 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate ranges from 25 to 150 but the test positivity rate of tests for COVID-19 infection is less than 4%.
- **Red**, if the 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate is 50 or more and the test positivity rate of tests for COVID-19 infection is 4% or more, or if the 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate is more than 150 per 100 000 population.
- **Grey**, if not sufficient information is available to assess the criteria in points (a) to (c) or if the testing rate is 300 or less COVID-19 tests for infection per 100 000 population.

Health

- A [partially EU-funded review](#) showed that while some medicines seem to benefit COVID-19 patients, the certainty of evidence in current trials is very low. There is currently no sure evidence-based treatment for COVID-19, a deficiency that could be addressed with more high-quality randomised clinical trials with a low risk of bias.
- The Health Security Committee [met](#) on 24 September to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 situation.
- Member States were divided over the use and effectiveness of disinfection robots.
- ECDC recommends a 14-day quarantine for persons who have had contact with confirmed COVID-19 cases, but this can be shortened to 10 days, if a PCR test at day 10 is negative. Different MS have different place in system concerning quarantines.

Data protection

- The **Council of Europe** has [published](#) a report exploring shortcomings in the protection of privacy and personal data in some of the legal and technical measures adopted by governments to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic among 55 African, Latin-American and European countries.

Institutions

- Politico have reported that following the appointment of Mairead McGuinness to the role of commissioner for financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union, Roberta Metsola is the frontrunner to replace Ms McGuinness as vice president.

Member States

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

- The Czech Republic's infection rate has risen from 423.7 – 493.1 (11/10 compared to 12/10).
- Belgium (364.1 – 402.5) and Malta (152.4 – 171.6) have also recorded increases.
- However, Luxembourg (170.9 – 163.4), Denmark (101.4 – 99.6), Estonia (51.4 – 50.2) and Cyprus (34.5 – 33.1) have noted a decline.
- The average infection rate amongst the EU27+1 has risen from 147.7 to 156.3.

Spain

- **Isabel Díaz Ayuso**, head of Madrid's regional government [told](#) the **Financial Times** that Spain's government is exacerbating the crisis, accusing Podemos grouping of shattering "the consensus of the two Spains [of left and right]" and trying to transform the country into a place where only "one form of thinking is allowed".

Czech Republic

- **Politico** reported that the Czech government imposed new measures late on Monday to try to curb a second wave of coronavirus infections, including shutting all schools except kindergartens and restricting social gatherings.

France

- According to French newspaper [Liberation](#), the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) has recruited 20,000 people out of the 25,000 expected to launch clinical trials in France on COVID-19 vaccines under development.
- Meanwhile, French government minister Marlene Schiappa said on Tuesday the government could not rule out imposing a curfew on cities such as Paris to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Belgium

- Two provinces in Belgium's French-speaking Walloon region [have imposed](#) a curfew in efforts to clamp down on soaring coronavirus infections gripping their territories. The curfew in the provinces of Luxembourg and the Brussels-bordering Walloon Brabant prohibits residents from being outdoors from 1:00 AM to 6:00 AM.

Netherlands

- Following a 72-hour period of watching the development of COVID-19 cases, new measures are expected to be announced today by PM Rutte. Those are expected to restrict travel and social contacts as much as possible in order to avoid a looming lockdown.

Finland

- Due to rise in COVID-19 infections, travel between Finland and Latvia, Liechtenstein and Cyprus will be restricted. Finland also lowered the recommended self-isolation period after possible exposure from 14 to 10 days, as health officials in the country consider that more than half of all cases become evident within five days and nearly all within ten days.

Source: DeHavillandEU