

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 14 October 2020

### General

### Recovery

#### Budget

- **Politico** cited [a letter](#) to the Council Presidency from Parliament's lead budget negotiator Johan Van Overtveldt.
- Mr Van Overtveldt said: "Let me state again very clearly that Parliament is not interested in budgetary tricks that would kick the can down the road to future annual budgetary procedures.
- The revised EP position would see EU governments pay an additional €22bn, while another €17bn would be found within the current plans.

#### Economy

- The euro area's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to fall 8.3% in 2020, but to recover and rise 5.2% in 2021, according to the World Economic [Forecasts](#) released by the IMF.
- In Germany, it expects a 6% recession in 2020 and a 4.2% recovery, and an unemployment rate of 4.3% and 4.2, respectively.
- For France, the IMF estimates a 9.8% drop in the economy in 2020 and a 6% rise in 2021, and an unemployment rise to 8.9% in 2020 and 10.2% in 2021.

#### Vaccine

- Late-stage clinical trials for Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) coronavirus vaccine [have been halted](#) after one person in the study developed an "unexplained illness." The company did not provide further details regarding the illness developed by the participant nor on their condition, citing personal privacy concerns.

#### Institutions

- **Politico** reported that the EU Council Summit will be socially distanced, attendees will wear masks, and access to the premises will be restricted for press.

### Member States

- **DeHavilland** [published](#) the latest edition of the COVID-19 Member State Information Pack.

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

- Belgium's infection rate has increased from 402.5 to 429.5 (12/10 compared to 13/10).

- The Czech Republic (493.1 – 521.5), the Netherlands (364.2 – 387) and Luxembourg (163.4 – 220.7) have also recorded an increase.
- However, Spain (308.1 – 299.8), Malta (171.6 – 169.8) and Denmark (99.6 – 98.8) have noted a decline in their infection rates.
- The average infection rate among the EU27+1 has increased from 156.3 to 164.4.

### Estonia

- The [mandatory self-isolation](#) does not apply to passengers arriving in Estonia from a country of the European Union and the European Economic Area with an infection rate below 50 persons per 100,000 inhabitants.
- Currently, the self-isolation does not apply to people arriving from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Norway and the Vatican.

### Germany

- Bavarian premier Markus Söder (CSU) has called for the implementation of national COVID-19 restrictions, warning that "a second lockdown is imminent."
- He also called for imposing limits on private gatherings.

### Romania

- The special committee for emergency situations proposed to extend the state of alert in the whole territory of Romania by 30 days as of 15 October due to higher number of COVID-19 cases.

### The Netherlands

- Yesterday, the Dutch government [ordered](#) a partial lockdown beginning today Wednesday 14 October at 10pm and lasting for the next four weeks. The government ordered all restaurants and bars to close and banned the sale of alcohol in grocery stores after 8pm as well as drinking outside.
- A law that would allow the government to make wearing a face mask compulsory is expected to enter into force in November. PM Rutte announced that as soon as this law is in effect, it will be mandatory to wear face masks. The restrictions will be evaluated after two weeks with no improvements leading to a full lockdown.

### Belgium

- The country will launch a "Coronavirus barometer" which will grade the epidemiological situation at a national, provincial and regional level and allocate colour-codes to the introduction of specific measures.

Source: DeHavilland EU