

COVID-19 EU Briefing 15 October 2020

General

Recovery

Markets

- The **Financial Times** [reported](#) that European stock markets fell on Thursday and investors moved into highly rated government bonds on further signs the second wave of coronavirus in the region is gathering pace.
- Europe's benchmark Stoxx 600 index fell 1.7 per cent. Germany's Dax declined 2.1 per cent, while the CAC 40 in France dropped 1.4 per cent. London's FTSE 100 slipped 2 per cent.

Institutions

- The European Parliament cancelled once again plans to return to Strasbourg next week for the plenary session as a result of the resurgent coronavirus pandemic.
- Parliament President David Sassoli on Thursday [tweeted](#) that "I regretfully announce that next week's plenary will not take place in Strasbourg, but will be held remotely".

Member States

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

- The Czech Republic's infection rate has increased from 521.5 to 581.3 (13/10 compared to 14/10).
- Belgium (429.5 – 469.5), the Netherlands (387 – 412.2) and the United Kingdom (268.1 – 283.2) have also recorded a rise.
- However, Spain (299.8 – 293.8) and Cyprus (38.1 – 34.7) have noted a decline in their infection rates.
- The average infection rate amongst the EU27+1 has risen from 164.4 to 173.4.

Germany

- Chancellor Merkel and all of the state premiers discussed new rules as the COVID-19 infections increased to the highest daily number since outbreak of the virus at the beginning of the year.
- As of 35 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants in a week, stricter mask rules will be put into place. As of 50 new cases per 100,000 inhabitants in a week, a curfew for the hospitality sector will be put in place lasting from 11pm to 6am. Social contacts will be also more limited following these thresholds.

Spain

- The regional government of Catalonia will implement new strict measures, such as shutting down bars and restaurants for two weeks.

Portugal

- Portugal [raised](#) its level of alert on Wednesday from a contingency situation to a calamity situation. Under the state of calamity, which is to apply across the country, there can no longer be outdoor gatherings in public of more than five people.

France

- A curfew will be [established](#) from Saturday 17 October in the Ile-de-France region and eight metropolitan areas (Grenoble, Lille, Lyons, Aix-Marseille, Montpellier, Rouen, Toulouse and Saint-Etienne). It will be effective between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am and will remain in force for as long as six weeks. Restaurants, bars and theatres will be closed from 9pm.

Source: DeHavilland EU