

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 16 November 2020

General

### Recovery

#### MFF

- **Politico** reported that EU ambassadors will take steps to finalise the MFF and NGEU Recovery Plan. They added that it is currently unclear if Hungary and Poland will try to block certain parts of the package such as the rule of law mechanism.

#### Testing

- The German Presidency of the EU reported on the [state of play](#) of EU-coordination in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Testing strategies:*

- Member States generally consider PCR tests to be the most reliable means of testing for COVID-19. Most Member States require rapid antigen tests to be followed up by a PCR test.
- Member States to submit national strategies on testing by mid-November.
- The Commission will present a further specific Recommendation on the use of rapid antigen tests on 18 November.

#### *Contact Tracing:*

- The approach to Passenger Locator Forms (PLF) currently differs across the EU. A common digital PLF, a webpage connecting national portals and a tool to develop national digital systems is being developed in the framework of Joint Action EU Healthy Gateways.

#### *Quarantine Measures:*

- The Commission will present a recommendation on COVID-19 isolation and quarantine measures on 18 November.

#### *Vaccination:*

- The ECDC will soon be providing an overview of Member States' vaccination deployment plans (expected on 19 November).

#### Trials

- The Commission [has signed](#) a grant of 1m€ to support the conduct of a clinical trial using Raloxifene for patients suffering from COVID-19.

## Member States

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

- The infection rate of Austria has continued to increase from 1011.2 to 1034.4 (14/11 compared to 15/11).
- Italy (761.5 – 770.6), Portugal (655.8 – 681), and Germany (306.9 – 310.3) have also noted an increased infection rate.
- However, Belgium (855.5 – 775.8), Czechia (1224 – 1156.1), and the Netherlands (550 – 527.5) have continued to record decreases.
- The average infection rate amongst the EU27+1 has continued to decline from 590.3 to 589.

### Belgium

- As of next week, people who have no symptoms of COVID-19 will again be able to get tested if they come into contact with a person that was positive.

### Italy

- Euractiv [reported](#) that according to a study conducted by the National Cancer Institute of Milan, COVID-19 was in Italy before the pandemic started to spread across the country in February.

### Spain

- More than half of Spanish citizens earn less money now than they did before the coronavirus crisis, according to a survey carried out by newspaper [El País](#). The poll shows that 50.5 percent of respondents have lost some income because of the pandemic, with 14.8 percent having temporarily lost their job and 11.5 percent being made unemployed.

### Germany

- **Chancellor Merkel** will discuss the current COVID-19 restrictions with the leaders of the country's 16 regions. However, there is not be a lifting of restrictions at this current time.
- Economy Minister Peter Altmaier [told](#) Bild am Sonntag: "We will have to live with significant precautions and restrictions for the next four to five months at least".

Source: DeHavillandEU