

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 11 January 2021

### General

- [Eurostat has announced that November 2020 Euro area unemployment was at 8.3%. This is a reduction from the October figure of 8.4%.](#)
  - [Meanwhile, the youth unemployment rate was 17.7% in the EU and 18.4% in the euro area, up from 17.5% and 18.0% respectively](#)
- [Eurostat has also estimated that Euro area annual inflation is expected to remain stable at -0.3% in December 2020 compared to November 2020.](#)
  - [Food, alcohol & tobacco is expected to have the highest annual rate in December \(1.4%, compared with 1.9% in November\), followed by services \(0.7%, compared with 0.6% in November\), non-energy industrial goods \(-0.5%, compared with -0.3% in November\) and energy \(-6.9%, compared with -8.3% in November\).](#)

### Recovery

#### COVID-19 Vaccine

- On Thursday January 21 **European Council President Michel** will chair a videoconference with EU27 leaders on COVID19 coordination.

#### *EU Agency:*

- EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) [has recommended](#) updating the [product information for Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine](#) to clarify that each vial contains 6 doses of the vaccine and that healthcare professionals can extract up to that amount.
- EMA is expecting **Astra Zeneca** to submit a conditional marketing application for its COVID19 vaccine next week. Conclusion is expected by end of January, depending on data and evaluation progress.

### Member States

#### Germany

- Apart from the joint procurement, Germany has managed to buy 30 million more vaccine doses from a separate bilateral deal with Pfizer and other 50 million from Moderna, buying doses that other countries don't buy.
- The European Commission refused to provide an answer on whether Germany's bilateral deal has broken the commitment to joint procurement of vaccines.

## Cyprus

- The government [decided](#) to implement stricter measures to limit gatherings and movement. The new measures will apply from Sunday, January 10, 2020, at 5 a.m. and until 31 January at midnight.
- The measures include a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. of the next day (movement is permitted only by text message), prohibition of meetings, public or social events, distance learning and teleworking.
- In an [interview](#) with Politis newspaper, Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades said that Cyprus has asked neighbouring Israel for COVID-19 vaccines, and he is expecting an answer within days.

## Sweden

- The Swedish parliament has approved a law giving the government the right to apply tougher measures in the fight against the current pandemic.
- The law allows the government to limit opening hours and visitor numbers in shops, restaurants and bars, public transport and in sport and cultural venues. If necessary, the law can also be applied to curb public gatherings in parks or at private events.

## Belgium

- The total number of deaths in the country since the beginning of the pandemic is currently 20,078.
- An average of 58 people in Belgium died from COVID-19 each day in the seven days to 6 January, a decrease of 15% from the previous seven-day period.
- The government said on Friday it would not tighten restrictions but would review these at its next meeting on 22 January.
- Meanwhile, its Testing Task Force is discussing a system that will allow for additional monitoring of travellers carrying a variant of the virus on their return to Belgium.

## Bulgaria

- Bulgaria's vaccination strategy appears to rely on the new vaccine by AstraZeneca, rather than on those by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*