## COVID-19 EU Briefing 12 January 2021

### General

COVID-19 Vaccine

- AstraZeneca has applied for a conditional marketing authorisation to the European Medicines Agency for its COVID-19 vaccine it produced with Oxford University.

- EMA announced that an opinion on the marketing authorisation could be issued by **29 January,** provided that the data submitted on the quality, safety and efficacy of the vaccine are sufficiently robust and that any additional information required to complete the assessment is promptly submitted.

*European Parliament:*

- The **ENVI Committee** has requested from the European Commission to consult the COVID19 vaccines contracts concluded between pharmaceutical companies and the EU. In that context, Commissioner Kyriakides announced that the contract signed with **CureVac** will be accessible to MEPs.

- Politico reported that MEPs will be able to read a "redacted version" of the contract "during certain selected time slots this week" in a reading room. The reading of the document will require a confidentiality agreement.

*Herd Immunity:*

- Despite widespread vaccination campaigns, herd immunity to the coronavirus will not be achieved this year, the WHO has said.

Economic Recovery

- The Council of the European Union has published the draft Council recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

*Recommendations:*

- Fiscal policies should remain supportive in all euro area Member States throughout 2021.
- Efforts should be made to further improve convergence, resilience and sustainable and inclusive growth.
- National institutional frameworks should be strengthened to address bottlenecks to investments and to ensure the efficient and timely use of EU funds (including the RRF).
- Credit channels should continue to support the economy of Member States, as should measures to support viable companies.
- Progress should be made in completing the EMU and strengthening the international role of the euro.

## Member States

Lithuania

- As of Monday, 11 January, people arriving from or travelling through the United Kingdom and the Republic of South Africa are required to self-isolate for 10 days or take a test for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Greece

- **Politico** reported that the Greek government is proposing that the EU introduce a vaccination certificate "facilitating the freedom of movement of persons who have been vaccinated against COVID-19" following a letter from Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.
- Mr Mitsotakis referenced the process of developing a common Passenger Locator Form as emblematic for the need for a high-level EU-wide mobilization to move things forward. Mr Mitsotakis will present the issue on 21 January during the next EU summit.

France

- According to the **Financial Times**, Jean Castex, French prime minister, told parliamentarians at a meeting on Monday that it was impossible to rule out a third lockdown for the country in the context of the threat of the new COVID-19 variant taking hold.

Austria

- The government has announced tighter regulations for people travelling into Austria, which will come into force on Friday.
- Travellers, including Austrian citizens, will need to register before crossing the border, irrespective of whether they come from a high-risk country or not.
- However, quarantine rules will continue to apply. Those who have visited a high-risk country days before their arrival to Austria will have to isolate themselves for 10 days, with the option to cut self-isolation short by presenting a negative test after the fifth day.

Romania

- Romania will start the second phase of its vaccination campaign on Friday with the aim to immunise people above 65, those suffering from chronic diseases, and essential workers.

<u>Portugal</u>

- Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa <u>has tested positive</u> for the coronavirus but shows no symptoms.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*