

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 13 January 2021

### General

#### COVID-19 Vaccine

- The European Commission announced it concluded exploratory talks with the **pharmaceutical company Valneva** with a view to purchasing its potential vaccine against COVID-19. The envisaged contract with Valneva would provide for the possibility for all EU Member States to purchase together 30 million doses, and they could further purchase up to 30 million more doses.

#### *CureVac contract:*

- On Tuesday afternoon, MEPs were formally allowed to start viewing the Commission's coronavirus vaccine contract with **German company CureVac**. They must leave their phones behind and sign a confidentiality agreement before spending an allocated 45 minutes in the reading room to read the 60-page document, all while being watched by a Commission employee.
- Politico [reported](#) the reaction of ENVI Chair Pascal Canfin who said that he wasn't satisfied with the method or the redacted nature of the contract which he analysed for the CureVac procurement process, adding "It cannot be the end of the story."
- He explained that all the information regarding the price of the vaccines — including the price per dose, as well as the Commission's down payment — was redacted. The two pages detailing the company's production sites were also redacted.
- MEPs have the next three days to view the contracts. Next, they will organize a meeting with the other coordinators to form a "collective assessment" of the CureVac contract.
- He will also push for all EU countries to release timetables for how many doses each should get each month, to determine when the EU will have enough to vaccinate 50 to 60 percent of its population.

#### European Institutions

- According to a draft decision [reported](#) by Politico, MEPs will not return for sessions in **Strasbourg** until March at the earliest.
- On Monday 18 January, the **European Court of Auditors (ECA)** will publish a [review](#) of the EU's initial response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

### Member States

#### Belgium

- Belgium's current measures will remain in place for another 6 weeks, according to a [new Ministerial Decree](#) published on Tuesday.

## Spain

- According to EL Pais, Spain's health ministry will soon launch a WhatsApp interactive channel to fight against disinformation on COVID-19 vaccines.

## Germany

- **Politico** reported the words of German Chancellor Angela Merkel who expressed her fears of the new strain of COVID-19 discovered in the UK and said that she may introduce a further "eight to 10 weeks of tough measures" in a bid to hold it off.
- In that context, Germany [plans](#) to tighten controls on people entering the country as part of efforts to bring under control a surge in coronavirus cases. The proposal, due to be approved by ministers on Wednesday, will require people arriving from countries with high case to take a test for the disease.

## Italy

- **Politico** reported that Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte redrafted his proposals for the €209m COVID-19 recovery plan in order to satisfy coalition partner Matteo Renzi and avert a government crisis.

## Greece

- **Politico** outlined the Greek proposal for an EU vaccination certificate which would contain information on the vaccination date (or dates, where two jabs are foreseen), and on the vaccine manufacturer and lot number.

## Netherlands

- The Dutch government [is extending](#) the lockdown until February 9, and is also considering the introduction of a curfew.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*