

COVID-19 EU Briefing 25 January 2021

General

AstraZeneca Delay

- As the **European Medicines Agency** [begins](#) on Monday its five-day meeting to review the **AstraZeneca** vaccine and conclude the assessment by Friday, AstraZeneca [said](#) on Friday that first deliveries of its COVID-19 vaccine to the European Union will be “lower than initially anticipated.”
- The European Commission insisted on a precise delivery schedule on the basis of which Member States should be planning their vaccination programs, subject to the granting of a conditional marketing authorisation.

European Council:

- The EU “intends to ensure that the contracts signed by the pharmaceutical industry are respected. We will use all the legal means at our disposal for this”, **Council President Charles Michel** [said](#) in an interview with Europe 1.

European Commission:

- Politico note that Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides was to post a letter to AstraZeneca on the weekend requesting an explanation.

Vaccination Targets

- Politico report that European Council President Charles Michel has admitted ““It’s going to be difficult” to reach a vaccination target of 70% of the EU’s adult’s population.

Economy Forecast Survey

- The European Central Bank (ECB) has [published](#) the results of the ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters in the first quarter of 2021. The survey found that shorter-term inflation expectations largely unchanged. Forecasters longer-term inflation expectations are unchanged at 1.7%. Additionally, unemployment rate expectations revised down across all horizons.

Member States

Spain

- Madrid, the Basque Country and the Valencia region on Friday [announced](#) new measures that will go into effect soon.
- In the capital, the overnight curfew will begin at 10pm and businesses must close by 9pm, including food and drink establishments. Authorities are also banning meetings inside homes with members of other household.
- In the Basque Country, food and drink establishments must close at 8pm except in locations with an incidence rate of over 500, where they must close altogether.

France

- France's national health authority — the Haute Autorité de la Santé — [has called](#) for a delay in giving people their second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines of six weeks in order to give more people their first jab.

Estonia

- A 10-day restriction on the freedom of movement [applies](#) to passengers entering Estonia from a country in the European Union, European Economic Area and the Schengen area with an infection rate above 150 persons per 100 000 inhabitants in the past 14 days.
- The restriction on the freedom of movement does not apply to Bulgaria, Iceland, Greece, Norway and Finland.

Romania

- In Romania, hospitality and entertainment facilities [are allowed](#) to open their indoor areas but must keep attendance at less than 30% of capacity.

Belgium

- On Friday, Belgium [announced](#) that non-essential travel will be banned temporarily from Wednesday 27 January until 1 March, for journeys both to and from Belgium.
- All travellers from the UK, South Africa and South America have to respect a ten-day quarantine, with testing on day 1 and day 7.

Source: *DeHavillandEU*