COVID-19 EU Briefing 23 February 2021

General
Economy

- The European Commission warned yesterday that not all EU countries will recover from the economic losses of 2020 at the same pace and called for a “strong joint response” from all EU member states. Johannes Hahn, the EU commissioner for budget and administration reiterated call for EU member states to quickly ratify the decision creating new “own resources” for the EU budget.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccine Efficacy:

- New findings in the U.K. show that the Pfizer and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines were shown to reduce the risk of hospital admission from the virus by up to 85% and 94% respectively in Scotland.
- Four weeks after receiving the initial dose, the Oxford vaccine appeared to reduce a person’s risk of hospital admission by 94%, while the those who received the Pfizer jab had a reduction in risk of 85% between 28 and 34 days after the first dose.

Pfizer:

- In an announcement BioNTech and Pfizer said that new data indicates that the vaccine is stable at minus 25 to minus 15 degrees Celsius, temperatures that are more commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers.

Sanofi / Johnson & Johnson:

- Sanofi announced it will provide manufacturing support to Johnson & Johnson for their COVID-19 vaccine to help address global supply demands. Once authorized, Sanofi will provide Johnson & Johnson access to the established infrastructure and expertise of its vaccine manufacturing plant in Marcy l’Étoile, France, to formulate and fill vials of Janssen’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate in 2021, at a rate of approximately 12 million doses per month.

Member States

Italy

- The Italian government on Monday extended a ban on non-essential travel between the country’s 20 regions until March 27.
Germany

- German federal and state health ministers on Monday reworked vaccination rules so that teachers will now get priority access to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

France

- Residents of France’s southeastern region of Alpes-Maritimes will be under lockdown over the next two weekends following a surge in COVID-19 cases, authorities announced on Monday.

Slovenia

- State Secretary at the Ministry of Health Alenka Forte presented the exit strategy of hospitals with regard to decreasing the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals.

Greece

The FT reports that Greek Tourism Minister Harry Theocharis has called on the EU to accelerate discussions on vaccine travel certificates.

Source: DeHavillandEU