COVID-19 EU Briefing 02 March 2021

General

Covid-19 Digital Green Pass for Travel

- European Commission President, Ursula von der Lyon, has announced that the Commission will launch a legislative proposal for a Digital Green Pass this month. It will provide proof that a person has been vaccinated, Results of tests for those who couldn’t get a vaccine yet and information on the COVID-19 recovery. She emphasised that it will respect data protection, security and privacy.

Tourism Ministers

- Yesterday, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council hosted an Informal video conference of European Union Tourism Ministers.
  - A key conclusion from the meeting was the need to ‘reinforce coordination between Member States, on issues such as the movement of people and health, in the areas that have an impact on the Tourism sector and associated sectors.’
  - Ministers agreed that the strategic focus on recovery in the sector should include digitalisation and mobility, as well as sustainability.
  - It was also agreed that promoting consumer trust was of vital importance in order for the tourism sector to recover.
  - They called for cross-border cooperation and the creation of instruments that include common criteria to allow for cross-border travel.
  - In regard to financial support for the sector, Member States have asked the Commission for greater flexibility in the different financial instruments, particularly the temporary support framework.
  - Additionally, with a view for the long-term viability of the sector, Ministers committed to defining a 2030/2050 Agenda.

Member States

Austria and Denmark

- Politico reports that Austria and Denmark are in talks with Israel to cooperate in the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and become less dependent on the EU for its supply.

France

- The FT report that France is to expand to over 65s the use of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. This follows data that shows it is effective for that age group.

Czech Republic

- Following a surge in COVID-19 cases, Reuters reports that greater number of police and soldiers have been deployed in order to enforce lockdown rules.
Italy

- Reuters reports that new Italian PM Mario Draghi has fired COVID-19 commissioner Domenico Arcuri. He has replaced him with a logistics expert from the Italian military.

Source: DeHavillandEU