COVID-19 EU Briefing 03 March 2021

General
Digital Certificates for Travel

- The European Commission will publish its proposal for a ‘Digital green certificate’ on 17 March. The digital certificate will contain vaccination and testing information and will facilitate cross-border travel.

Vaccinations

J&J Vaccine

- The European Medical Agency (EMA) is expected to give its recommendation on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (Janssen) on 11 March.

Production

- Euractiv highlight that Commissioner Breton has stated the EU aims to increase vaccine production capacity to 2-3 billion doses per year.

Fiscal Rules

- The FT reports that the European Commission is expected to suspend its Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) for a further year when it presents its fiscal policy guidance later this morning.
- Officials suggest that it will only be reactivated when conditions return to pre-COVID levels. The Commission do not expect this to occur before the middle of 2022.
- Crucially, the FT also report that the SGP will not be too rigorous in its enforcement when the SGP is reactivated.
- The SGP is a set of rules designed to ensure that member states pursue sound public finances and coordinate their fiscal policies.

German and Spanish Economic Figures

- The FT reports that Spanish unemployment has risen 44,436 in the past month to over 4 million. Meanwhile, Germany has suffered a 4.5% reduction in retail sales January compared to February 2021.

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Member States

Germany

- **Politico** has obtained Germany’s response to the Commission’s complaint in regard to its border restrictions. Rather than backing down, Ambassador Michael Clauß defended the controls.

France

- **Reuters** notes that around 50% of French care home workers do not want a vaccine.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*