COVID-19 EU Briefing 11 March 2021

General
Recovery
COVID-19 Vaccine

- The European Medicines Agency announced that there is currently no indication to link the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to illnesses developed by two people in Austria who had been inoculated.
- However, the Telegraph reports that Danish Health Authorities have announced the temporary suspension of the AstraZeneca jab in a precautionary measure following the development of blood clots in some patients after receiving the vaccine. It has yet to be determined if there is a link between the blood clots and the vaccine.

Export control mechanism:

- Reuters reported that the European Commission has decided to extend its export authorisation scheme for COVID-19 vaccines to the end of June.

Digital Passport

- In collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Air Serbia will start testing the IATA Travel Pass, a new mobile application helping travellers to manage their trips easily and securely, in line with government requirements for COVID-19 testing or vaccination.
- The IATA Travel Pass will make it possible for travellers to store and manage data related to the results of COVID-19 tests on their mobile phones and share their verified status with an airline before they reach the airport.
- The first stage of application testing will involve Air Serbia’s Belgrade-Zurich flights and will take a few weeks to implement.

Own Resources

- Romanian Social-Democrats leader Marcel Ciolacu stated the PSD would not vote on Romania's contribution to the EU budget unless the government presented the national recovery and resilience plan. Prime Minister Florin Citu accusing the Social-Democrats of derailing the ratification of the own resources' decision.

Member States

Lithuania

- As of 10 March, all passengers arriving in or returning to Lithuania by any mode of transport via international routes are required to provide a proof of COVID-19 disease (coronavirus infection) test and a negative test result obtained not earlier than 3 days prior to the arrival.
Belgium

- Belgium's Superior Health Council **decided** that the standard interval between two Pfizer injections will be extended to 35 days. Until now, a second one has been reserved for every first dose to ensure complete vaccination, even in case of delivery problems.

Austria

- In the state of Vorarlberg in Austria, starting next Monday, restaurants and bars will reopen, including indoor areas. Guests will have to present negative tests not older than 48 hours.

Italy

- The Italian government is again thinking of imposing more restrictions. The measures, which could arrive as early as Friday, include the closure of bars and restaurants on weekends and travel restrictions with a ban on leaving the municipality of residence.
- Meanwhile, the Italian health ministry **approved** on Wednesday an ordinance authorising 'COVID-free' flights – reserved for passengers with negative coronavirus tests – from Milan Malpensa airport to the United States.

Ireland

Significant restrictions **are set** to remain in place until the second half of May in Ireland.

*Source: DeHavillandEU*