COVID-19 EU Briefing 22 March 2021

Recovery

COVID-19 Vaccine

- EU heads of state and government will hold a summit by videoconference to discuss whether AstraZeneca should face a ban on exports of coronavirus vaccine doses it produces in the EU if it does not meet its delivery obligations.
- Boris Johnson, British Prime Minister, will urge EU national capitals to veto a suggestion from Brussels that would block AstraZeneca vaccine exports to the UK.
- Meanwhile, the European Union denied British government calls to ship AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines produced in a factory in the Netherlands, an EU official said on Sunday.

AstraZeneca:

- The trials in the United States, Chile and Peru showed the AZ vaccine was 79% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19.
- However, fewer Europeans trust the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine after several countries reported side-effects, such as blood clots, an opinion poll by YouGov showed.

Member States

Slovakia

- Slovakia’s Prime Minister Igor Matovic said on Sunday that he was prepared to stand down to defuse a coalition crisis that erupted after his decision to purchase Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine.

Belgium

- Belgium’s ban on non-essential travel has been extended after the Easter holidays until 18 April.

Italy

- Teachers, pupils, parents and associations held protests in 34 Italian cities, calling for the resumption of face-to-face lessons.

Estonia

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against any non-essential international travel.
- The restriction on the freedom of movement does not apply to passengers arriving from a country with an infection rate below 150 per 100,000 inhabitants in the past 14 days: Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain.
Germany
Reuters reports that according to a draft proposal the German Government will extend its lockdown into a fifth month.

Source: DeHavillandEU