COVID-19 EU Briefing 04 May 2021

Recovery

<u>Recovery and Resilience Plans</u>

- The European Commission has received official recovery and resilience plans from Belgium, Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Poland.
- The Belgian plan is structured around six pillars: climate, sustainability and innovation; digital transformation; mobility; social and inclusiveness; economy of the future and productivity; and public finances. Projects in the plan cover the entire lifetime of the RRF until 2026. The plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas.
- The Italian plan is structured around six areas: digitalisation, innovation, competitiveness and culture; green revolution and ecological transition; infrastructure for sustainable mobility; education and research; cohesion and inclusion; health. Projects in the plan cover the entire lifetime of the RRF until 2026. The plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas.
- The Austrian plan is structured around four policy priorities. These include reform and investment measures relating to: green recovery, covering renovation, mobility, biodiversity, circular economy, and climate neutrality; digital recovery, covering broadband, schools, public service, and enterprises; knowledge based recovery, including research, up- and reskilling, education, and strategic innovation; and fair recovery, encompassing healthcare, resilient communities, art and culture, and reforms.
- The Slovenian plan is structured around four priority pillars: green transition; digital transformation; smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; health and welfare including investments and reforms in long-term care and social housing. Projects in the plan cover the entire lifetime of the RRF until 2026. The plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas.
- The Polish plan is structured around five pillars of resilience of the economy, including business environment, innovation and labour market policy; green energy; digital transformation; sustainable transport and the health system. The plan includes measures in improving air quality, energy-efficiency in buildings, the development of renewable energy sources, zero-emission transport and access to broadband internet.
- Euractiv stated that 14 of the 27 Member States have submitted recovery plans.

<u>Non-Essential Travel</u>

- The European Commission has put forward a proposal on reopening non-essential travel from outside of the EU.
- Member States should allow travel into the EU of those people who have received, at least 14 days before arrival, the last recommended dose of a vaccine having received marketing authorisation in the EU. Member States could also extend this to those vaccinated with a vaccine having completed the WHO emergency use listing process.
- The Commission is proposing to amend the criteria to take into account the mounting evidence of the positive impact of vaccination campaigns. The proposal is to increase the threshold of 14-day cumulative COVID-19 case notification rate from 25 to 100.

- The proposal also comes with an "emergency brake", meaning that Member State can urgently and temporarily suspend all inbound travel by non-EU citizens resident in a country, if a variant of concern or interest is detected.

COVID-19 Vaccine

- The **European Medicines Agency** has started evaluating an application to extend the use of the COVID-19 vaccine from BioNTech / Pfizer (Comirnaty) to include young people aged 12 to 15.
- EMA will communicate on the outcome of its evaluation, which is expected in June unless supplementary information is needed.

Johnson & Johnson:

- Denmark has decided to pause the use of the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Johnson & Johnson from its vaccination programme, citing worries over serious side effects involving blood clots.

Sputnik vaccine:

- Slovak's government has published the contract for ordering two million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine. The document revealed its price to be €8 per dose, the manufacturer gives up all liability and the text itself acknowledges that the contents of vaccines delivered might not be consistent across the board

Member States

Slovenia / Hungary

- Slovenia and Hungary have decided to press ahead bilaterally, and mutually recognise their respective certificates

Source: DeHavillandEU