

## COVID-19 EU Briefing 05 May 2021

### Recovery

#### Recovery and Resilience Plans

##### *Finland*

- The Finnish population is divided over the EU recovery package. Half of the population see the package as necessary for the bloc's future, the other half see it as only benefitting the southern states and being unfair to Finland.

##### *Poland*

- Poland's lower house has [approved](#) the EU's borrowing plans to finance the bloc's €750bn pandemic recovery fund, despite divisions over the proposal in the ruling conservative-nationalist coalition.

#### COVID-19 Vaccines

##### *Sinovac*

- The European Medicines Agency has [started](#) its rolling review of Chinese firm Sinovac's vaccine, the regulator announced yesterday. The review allows the EMA to assess data as it becomes available until there is enough evidence to form a conclusion. Early indications show that the jab does produce an immune response.

##### *BioNTech/Pfizer*

- The **European Medicines Agency** [has also 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.

#### International Treaty on Pandemics

- The European Commission published a [proposal](#) concerning the establishment of the position to be taken at the seventy-fourth session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in connection with the decision for establishing an international treaty on the fight against pandemics.
- The EU should be allowed to participate as contracting party to the Treaty in order to fully support the establishment of a WHO process for a new Framework Convention on Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

## Member States

### Austria

- Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has said that his government plans to introduce a national green certificate, despite the EU's digital green certificate expected to be rolled out by summer.

### Italy

- Italy is also planning a national COVID-19 pass to lure back travellers with the promise of a holiday without quarantines from mid-May, Prime Minister Mario Draghi [announced](#) following a G20 tourism ministers' meeting. Italy has also indicated that they want to open their pass scheme early, but they also want to allow travellers from the UK and the US.

### Belgium

- Belgium's equality body has warned that refusing access to goods or services to non-vaccinated people could count and discriminatory. The body warned the issue becomes more problematic when certain groups have not been vaccinated for health reasons or religious beliefs.

### Greece

- A Greek epidemiologist has said it would be a good idea to allow vaccinated people to not wear a mask indoors as it will incentivise people to get vaccinated.

### Romania

- Romanian Prime Minister Florin Cîtu has suggested that those who have had their vaccines could be faced with fewer restrictions. The suggestion comes as demand for vaccines in Romania is fading.

### Luxembourg

- Teachers, police officers, magistrates, prison guards and others whose job requires close contact with others will get priority in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Luxembourg entered the final phase of its vaccination programme last week, calling up people aged 54 or younger to get a shot

*Source: DeHavillandEU*