

## 1 Public health

---

- European Commission: recommendations for a common Covid-19 testing approach
- European Council: the Member States undertake to strengthen their cooperation in the fight against Covid-19
- European Commission and WHO: launch of the Facilitation Council to strengthen global collaboration in the search for a vaccine against Covid-19
- European Commission: publication of the 2020 Strategic Foresight Report
- WHO and European Commission: Joint Statement - A deeper and result-oriented partnership for health in Europe
- European Parliament: resolution calling for reinforcement of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the rescEU strategic reserve
- ECDC: key aspects regarding the introduction and prioritisation of Covid-19 vaccination in the EU/EEA and the UK
- EXPH: preliminary draft opinion on the organisation of resilient health and social care following the Covid-19 pandemic
- European Parliament: MEPs advocate a reinforced 'EU4Health' programme
- Council of the EU: adoption of the mandate to negotiate with the European Parliament on the 'EU4Health' programme
- European Commission: further response measures to Covid-19
- European Commission: key steps for effective vaccination strategies and vaccines deployment
- European Commission: adoption of the 2021 Commission work programme in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic
- European Commission: proposals to strengthen the EU's role in health security and resilience
- European Commission: establishment of a scientific advice platform on Covid-19

## 2 Medicines, protection equipment and medical devices

---

- European Parliament: resolution on a strategic approach to reducing pharmaceutical pollution
- European Commission: preliminary agreements with pharmaceutical companies for the purchase of a potential Covid-19 vaccine
- EMA: public consultation on its Guideline on registry-based studies
- European Commission: answer to a parliamentary question on the exportation of ventilator components
- European Commission: support to the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility
- European Parliament: adoption of a resolution to strengthen EU independence with regard to medicines and medical equipment
- Joint Statement: Transparency is needed to reap the full benefits of the EU's investment in its vaccines strategy
- European Parliament: criticisms of lack of transparency surrounding the European negotiations for the purchase of a Covid-19 vaccine
- EMA: EU regulators fully uphold transparency and independence standards for Covid-19 treatments and vaccines

- European Commission: signature of a joint procurement contract for the supply of Remdesivir
- European Commission: purchase of 200 disinfection robots for European hospitals
- European Commission: medical supplies and equipment dispatched to the Western Balkans and to Czechia to help fight the pandemic
- European Commission: public consultation on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma

### **3 Competition**

---

- European Commission: list of Member State measures approved under the temporary framework for State aid
- French competition authority: 444 million euro fine to Novartis and Roche for abuse of a dominant position
- French competition authority clears the acquisition of the UMG-GHM clinics by the Doctegestio group
- Romanian competition authority: GSK fined for non-compliance with some of its commitments
- Romanian competition authority: analysis of the impact of medical services legislation on competition
- British competition authority: investigation into Essential Pharma for suspected abuse of a dominant position
- Netherlands competition authority: end of the investigation into the company AbbVie

### **4 Social policy**

---

- European Commission: public consultation on the European Child Guarantee

### **5 e-Health**

---

- EMA: publication of the Big Data Steering Group workplan for 2020-2021
- European Commission: a 'gateway' system to ensure the interoperability of tracing applications EU-wide
- Council of the EU: adoption of the conclusions 'Improving the well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation'

### **6 Economic policy**

---

- European Commission: European Semester cycle adjusted to the context of the Covid-19 pandemic
- European Commission: Enhanced surveillance report on Greece (September 2020)
- European Commission: European economic forecast (autumn 2020)

## **7 European Funding**

---

- European Commission: allocation of 150 million euros for the transport of essential medical items
- European Commission: green light to the reallocation of cohesion funds to fight Covid-19 in several Member States
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): funding for 207 projects in priority sectors
- European Parliament: call to increase the budget of the React-EU mechanism
- European Commission: presentation of the next steps in the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Council of the EU: increase to the 2020 budget to tackle the pandemic
- European Parliament: the InvestEU fund should ensure the necessary investments are made in critical healthcare services
- EIB: funding of MMI's robotic system
- EIB: 50 million euros granted to the region of Navarre to strengthen its response to the pandemic
- EIB: up to 25 million euros granted to Minoryx Therapeutics
- European Commission: launch of the 'European Social Innovation and Impact Fund' (ESIIF) in Germany
- European Commission: funding for health projects under the Horizon 2020 programme
- Letter to von der Leyen: a call to strengthen the European research budget
- European Parliament: resolution on the draft general EU budget for 2021
- European Commission: a million euros support to clinic trials concerning Covid-19

## **8 Court of Justice of the European Union**

---

- Judgment: pharmacies authorised to use paid referencing on search engines for on-line sales in another Member State
- Judgment: refusal to reimburse cross-border healthcare costs for a treatment available in the Member State of affiliation but the method of treatment is against the patient's religious beliefs
- Judgment: a Member State may not refuse to approve amendments to information pertaining to a medicine authorised in another Member State and covered by a parallel import licence
- Judgment: a patient's urgent needs require flexibility in relation to prior authorisation for reimbursement of cross-border healthcare
- Judgment: annulment of the refusal of a marketing authorisation for the medicine Aplidin – plitidepsin
- Judgment: Trecondi-treosulfan can be classified as an orphan medicinal product
- Judgment: an independent expert working for a medical service of a care insurance fund does not necessarily need to be recognised as an institution with a social character

## **9 Infringement Proceedings**

---

- European Commission: Slovakia and Germany must comply with EU rules on the recognition of professional qualifications
- European Commission: the United Kingdom must guarantee full sickness insurance cover to EU citizens
- European Commission: Belgium must notify the Commission with information concerning operators of essential health services

## 10 Publications

---

- Articles: the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic for public health in the EU
- OSE: Can Covid-19 change the European competition law framework in health?
- Book: Standardisation of health products in search of legitimacy: rethinking judicial review?
- Article: Political steering in the European Commission: a comparison of the energy and health sectors
- EJRR: Towards a European Health Union: What role for Member States?
- JCMS: Evidence and power in EU governance of health promotion: discursive obstacles to a 'health in all policies' approach
- EJRR: More competences than you knew? The web of health competence for European Union action in response to the Covid-19 outbreak
- Article: Bringing EU citizens together or pulling them apart? The European Health Insurance Card, east-west mobility and the failed promise of European social integration
- Eurofound: Access to care services – early childhood education and care, healthcare and long-term care
- European Parliament Think tank: Coronavirus: the second wave [what think tanks are thinking]
- ECDC: Population-wide testing of SARS-CoV-2: country experiences and potential approaches in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom
- FRA: survey of the situation of Roma and Travellers in six EU countries
- Concurrences: COVID-19: lessons learned in public procurement. Time for a new normal?
- Politico: the United States wish to reduce the price of medicines. What consequences for the EU?
- EPHA: Covid-19, trade and investment and public health
- Eurohealth: Health system responses to Covid-19
- Article: analysis of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement concerning access to cross-border healthcare and related rights
- Report: Our failure to prevent known risks. Occupational safety and health in the healthcare sector during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Report: The inclusion of Hazardous Medicinal Products within the scope of the Carcinogens and Mutagens directive

## 11 Miscellaneous

---

- Eurobarometer survey: health is not European citizens' top concern during the Covid-19 pandemic
- CEO: inquiry into the practices of pharmaceutical lobbies during the Covid-19 pandemic
- European Commission: foreign investment screening mechanism becomes fully operational
- Council of the EU: adoption of conclusions on the role of the EU in strengthening the WHO

## 1 Public health

---

### European Commission: recommendations for a common Covid-19 testing approach

These recommendations are intended to help Member States detect Covid-19 cases and to enable a better overview of infection rates and transmission within the population.

DOC 1 [EN](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN](#) PDF

### European Council: the Member States undertake to strengthen their cooperation in the fight against Covid-19

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States undertook to strengthen their cooperation with a view to developing, as soon as possible, a vaccine against Covid-19, and to prepare a strategy for rapid and efficient distribution within the EU.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission and WHO: launch of the Facilitation Council to strengthen global collaboration in the search for a vaccine against Covid-19

The European Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO) organised the first meeting of the High-Level Facilitation Council, which leads the work of the global framework Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT). This meeting was an opportunity to underline the importance of this structure as a way to restore health systems and encourage a multilateral approach, enabling equitable distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine worldwide.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: publication of the 2020 Strategic Foresight Report

This document presents a series of lessons from the pandemic and suggests some possible long-term European responses. These include a series of measures to strengthen the resilience of EU health systems.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### WHO and European Commission: Joint Statement - A deeper and result-oriented partnership for health in Europe

This statement sets out policies and priority objectives for the EU-WHO partnership. These include more effective, accessible, resilient and innovative health systems, reducing the impact of non-communicable diseases, and promoting health cooperation with third countries.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### European Parliament: resolution calling for reinforcement of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the rescEU strategic reserve

MEPs are calling for an increase in the amount allocated to the Civil Protection Mechanism and the rescEU medical equipment reserve from 2021, to address events putting pressure on all national capacities at once, such as health crises. The Parliament is also calling for greater transparency on how the funds are used, with clear publication of the breakdown between the three pillars of the mechanism: prevention, preparation and response.

DOC 1 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### ECDC: key aspects regarding the introduction and prioritisation of Covid-19 vaccination in the EU/EEA and the UK

The ECDC sets out key criteria regarding a distribution strategy for a Covid-19 vaccine. Given the anticipated initial limitations, a consistent strategy will need to be defined for optimal allocation of the vaccine, prioritising distribution to high-risk groups in the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) and the United Kingdom.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**EXPH: preliminary draft opinion on the organisation of resilient health and social care following the Covid-19 pandemic**

In this preliminary draft opinion, the European Commission's Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (EXPH) makes recommendations targeting a number of key areas, including: enhancing workforce training and resilience, creating new systems for research and development, production and sales of innovative medicines, and fostering inter-professional and inter-sectoral collaboration with, for example, community health workers and informal care-givers within the EU.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**European Parliament: MEPs advocate a reinforced 'EU4Health' programme**

The Parliament underlines that the Member States' proposal to reduce the programme's budget to 1.7 billion euros would have made it impossible to set up a programme to effectively strengthen the capacities of national health systems. A provisional agreement reached with Member States therefore includes a compromise budget three times higher. The Parliament also calls for the setting up of a European health response mechanism and asks for assurances that essential medicines will be available in sufficient quantities and at an affordable cost.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**Council of the EU: adoption of the mandate to negotiate with the European Parliament on the 'EU4Health' programme**

The Council adopted its mandate for negotiation with the European Parliament on the establishment of a programme for the Union's action in the field of health for the period 2021-2027, 'EU4Health'. Member States have proposed the creation of an 'EU4Health steering group', to increase their influence in the process of implementing the programme.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**European Commission: further response measures to Covid-19**

The European Commission published a communication describing further measures to help limit the spread of the coronavirus and boost the effectiveness of responses aiming to halt this spread. These measures are also intended to ramp up targeted testing and contact tracing, to prepare vaccination campaigns and ensure access to essential supplies.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**European Commission: key steps for effective vaccination strategies and vaccines deployment**

The Commission published a communication, ahead of the discussions between European Heads of State, setting out a series of key elements to be taken into consideration by Member States when developing Covid-19 vaccination strategies.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**European Commission: adoption of the 2021 Commission work programme in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic**

In its 2021 work programme, the European Commission foresees, in particular, the establishment of an agency for biomedical advanced research and development, the creation of a European health data space, and an evaluation of directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: proposals to strengthen the EU's role in health security and resilience

The European Commission has published a communication and three legislative proposals linked to the objectives of strengthening the EU's role in the field of health, as announced by Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union address. The Commission is proposing a new regulation on serious cross-border threats to health, and a strengthening of the roles of the ECDC and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). In parallel, it sets out the main elements for the future Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA), to be proposed by the end of 2021.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: establishment of a scientific advice platform on Covid-19

This platform, chaired by the Commissioner for Health, Stella Kyriakides, is designed to provide better coordinated scientific advice to Member States on their public health approaches and measures in relation to the pandemic. It is made up of scientific advisors on Covid-19 from the Member States.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

## 2 Medicines, protection equipment and medical devices

---

### European Parliament: resolution on a strategic approach to reducing pharmaceutical pollution

This European Parliament resolution calls for support to the development of pharmaceutical products which are less harmful for the environment, for improvements in environmental risk assessment, reductions in waste and increased transparency on the environmental impact of these products.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: preliminary agreements with pharmaceutical companies for the purchase of a potential Covid-19 vaccine

By 11 November 2020, the European Commission had concluded four contracts with pharmaceutical companies for the purchase of a potential vaccine against Covid-19. The companies concerned are BioNTech-Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sanofi-GSK and Janssen Pharmaceutica NV. The most recent of these contracts was signed with BioNtech-Pfizer, which, on 9 November 2020, announced that it had developed a vaccine which was '90% effective'. The Commission is also in exploratory talks with Curevac and Moderna. The aim of these preliminary agreements is to enable all Member States to order sufficient doses of vaccine.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### EMA: public consultation on its Guideline on registry-based studies

The EMA has submitted its draft guideline on registry-based studies to a three-month public consultation. This guideline is intended to improve the use of patient registries as evidence in evaluations.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### European Commission: answer to a parliamentary question on the exportation of ventilator components

In answer to a parliamentary question, Stella Kyriakides, the Commissioner responsible for health, replied that the European legislation on medical devices does not cover parts or components of such devices. For this reason, key ventilator components are not labelled as 'medical devices' and are still being exported to third countries. The Commissioner also recalls the complexity of the supply chains for medical devices, which, depending on their components, may have multiple intermediate steps in several countries.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Commission: support to the Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility**

The European Commission is supporting the COVAX facility, investing 500 million euros in it (€400 million in the form of guarantees and €100 million in grant funding). This facility is managed jointly by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the WHO, and aims to speed up the development and production of Covid-19 vaccines and to ensure equitable global distribution.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

▶ **European Parliament: adoption of a resolution to strengthen EU independence with regard to medicines and medical equipment**

The European Parliament is calling for the EU to be more self-sufficient when it comes to medicines and medical equipment, and not dependent on third countries; advocating for this to be one of the cornerstones of the new European pharmaceutical strategy. It also mentions the need to screen foreign direct investment (FDI) in pharmaceutical manufacturing plants and critical health infrastructure in the EU.

DOC 1 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

▶ **Joint Statement: Transparency is needed to reap the full benefits of the EU's investment in its vaccines strategy**

Organisations representing not-for-profit healthcare insurers, healthcare professionals and public interest organisations have published joint recommendations to bring more transparency to the EU's vaccines strategy. These include transparency on the amounts and destinations of the EU's spending on Covid-19 vaccines, high standards of regulatory assessment, transparency of the vaccine joint procurement process, and transparent liability clauses.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Parliament: criticisms of lack of transparency surrounding the European negotiations for the purchase of a Covid-19 vaccine**

MEPs criticised the lack of transparency surrounding the European negotiations, many aspects of which remain confidential, covered by the principle of 'business secrecy'. On 12 November 2020, the European Commissioner for health, Stella Kyriakides, defended to MEPs the European Commission's confidentiality policy for the negotiations on the purchase of a potential Covid-19 vaccine, while ensuring to look into the possibilities of opening some documents for consultation.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML | DOC 3 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML | DOC 4 [EN/FR](#) HTML

▶ **EMA: EU regulators fully uphold transparency and independence standards for Covid-19 treatments and vaccines**

In response to the European Ombudsman, the EMA explained that it is applying the same independence measures to its experts dealing with Covid-19 treatments and vaccines as it does for those dealing with all other medicines.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Commission: signature of a joint procurement contract for the supply of Remdesivir**

The European Commission has signed a joint procurement contract with the pharmaceutical company Gilead for the purchase of up to 500,000 doses of Remdesivir for the treatment of Covid-19. The contract includes a clause which makes it possible to increase the numbers of doses ordered if necessary.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

▶ **European Commission: purchase of 200 disinfection robots for European hospitals**

In the context of the pandemic, the European Commission has confirmed its intention to purchase around 200 disinfection robots. The hospitals which will receive these donations will be selected in collaboration with the Member States, prioritising those most in need.

DOC [EN](#) PDF



**European Commission: medical supplies and equipment dispatched to the Western Balkans and to Czechia to help fight the pandemic**

The European Commission, through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the strategic reserve of medical supplies, rescEU, has approved the dispatching of medical supplies and protective equipment to the Western Balkans. Thanks to the two European schemes and inter-State solidarity, 150 ventilators were also supplied to Czechia.

DOC 1 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

**European Commission: public consultation on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma**

At the request of the European Commission, the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks published a preliminary opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma. This preliminary opinion has now been submitted to a public consultation, to enable the Scientific Committee to identify issues which require further study.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### 3 Competition

---

**European Commission: list of Member State measures approved under the temporary framework for State aid**

Since 19 March 2020, the European Commission has established a temporary framework for State aid, enabling Member States to respond to urgent needs caused by the pandemic. Several State aid measures granted under this temporary framework are aimed at strengthening national healthcare systems.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**French competition authority: 444 million euro fine to Novartis and Roche for abuse of a dominant position**

A fine was imposed on these two industrial groups, for having abused their collective dominant position on the French market for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

DOC [FR](#) HTML

**French competition authority clears the acquisition of the UMG-GHM clinics by the Doctegestio group**

The Doctegestio group, which manages several clinics as well as other healthcare centres such as dental and optic centres, is taking over the mutual union UMG-GHM, which runs clinics, including the mutual hospital group in Grenoble.

DOC 1 [FR](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

**Romanian competition authority: GSK fined for non-compliance with some of its commitments**

A inquiry by the Romanian competition authority showed that GSK suspended the marketing of three versions of its drug Seretide before the end of the two-year period which it had undertaken to respect. The company was thus fined 1.9 million lei.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**Romanian competition authority: analysis of the impact of medical services legislation on competition**

The Romanian competition authority is conducting an analysis of legislative provisions which require accounting and medical service companies to be owned and/or managed only by professionals in the field. The aim of the analysis is to assess whether these obligations exceed the criteria of proportionality and necessity established to achieve public policy objectives, and whether they constitute barriers to access these markets.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

➤ **British competition authority: investigation into Essential Pharma for suspected abuse of a dominant position**

The British competition authority is investigating whether the pharmaceutical company Essential Pharma abused a dominant position on the market for lithium-based medicines for treating bipolar disorder, which it sells under the brand names 'Priadel' and 'Camcolit', by proposing to withdraw the supply of Priadel to British patients.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

➤ **Netherlands competition authority: end of the investigation into the company AbbVie**

The Dutch competition authority is closing an investigation into the pharmaceutical company AbbVie, having received assurances that it would not force hospitals to purchase exclusively (or to a large extent) its products by organising discount schemes.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [NL](#) HTML

## 4 Social policy

---

➤ **European Commission: public consultation on the European Child Guarantee**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the roadmap for a European Child Guarantee. The aim of this guarantee will be to ensure that all children who are at risk of poverty, social exclusion or otherwise disadvantaged have access to essential services of good quality, including healthcare.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

## 5 e-Health

---

➤ **EMA: publication of the Big Data Steering Group workplan for 2020-2021**

The Big Data Steering Group set up by the EMA and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) has published its workplan for 2020-21. This workplan aims to increase the utility of big data in regulation, with regard to data quality, assessment and decision-making.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

➤ **European Commission: a 'gateway' system to ensure the interoperability of tracing applications EU-wide**

The European Commission has implemented a 'gateway' interoperability system for Covid-19 tracing apps, aiming to connect the various national apps across the EU. This gateway system will initially operate in Italy and Germany.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

➤ **Council of the EU: adoption of the conclusions 'Improving the well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation'**

In its conclusions, the Council calls on Member States and the Commission to ensure that digitalisation, in particular in health, social and long-term care services, will facilitate access to and use of services by older people, while maintaining non-digital services.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

## 6 Economic policy

---

### European Commission: European Semester cycle adjusted to the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

The 2021 cycle of the European Semester, launched with the publication of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, will be adjusted to the context of the pandemic. The aim is to coordinate Member States' actions within the framework of the post-Covid recovery plan. The Semester will particularly focus on access to education, good-quality, accessible, affordable and fiscally sound healthcare, as well as the strengthening of long-term care provision.

DOC 1 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

### European Commission: Enhanced surveillance report on Greece (September 2020)

As part of the enhanced surveillance process for Greece, the European Commission reviews all the major reforms planned by Athens. It notes that the reform of the primary healthcare system will take far longer than originally estimated because of the new urgent needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### European Commission: European economic forecast (autumn 2020)

The European Commission's economic forecast emphasises that the resurgence of the pandemic in recent weeks is resulting in disruptions to the economic recovery, as national authorities are introducing new public health measures to limit the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

## 7 European Funding

---

### European Commission: allocation of 150 million euros for the transport of essential medical items

The European Commission is providing financial support to 18 Member States and the United Kingdom to transport essential medical items to Europe, through the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI).

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: green light to the reallocation of cohesion funds to fight Covid-19 in several Member States

In April 2020, the European Commission launched two packages of measures entitled 'Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative'(CRII) and 'Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus' (CRII+). Under these schemes, European funding initially allocated to cohesion policy can be redirected to respond to immediate needs caused by the pandemic, particularly healthcare needs. Some Member States, including Italy, Spain, Poland and Croatia, have already applied to the schemes to help them tackle the pandemic.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 3 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 4 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 5 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 6 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 7 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 8 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 9 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 10 [EN](#) HTML

### European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): funding for 207 projects in priority sectors

The projects selected for funding include projects in the areas of health, biotechnology, diagnostics, and the reduction of airborne contaminants.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

▶ **European Parliament: call to increase the budget of the React-EU mechanism**

The European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development has adopted a report calling for the funds allocated by the React-EU programme – which provides financing from the cohesion funds in response to the pandemic – to be primarily focused on the regions hardest hit by the health crisis, and to provide support, in particular, to health and social infrastructure, health systems and services. This report acts as a mandate for the European Parliament in its interinstitutional negotiations with the Council.

DOC 1 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR](#) HTML | DOC 3 [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Commission: presentation of the next steps in the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

The Recovery and Resilience Facility is the cornerstone of the European post-Covid economic recovery plan. This scheme is designed to make 672.5 billion euros available to Member States, in loans and grants. The funds deployed by the Facility will be aimed, notably, at speeding up the digitalisation of healthcare in Europe.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

▶ **Council of the EU: increase to the 2020 budget to tackle the pandemic**

The Council reached agreement on a 6.2 billion euro increase to the EU 2020 budget. As a result of this agreement, the budget of the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) would be increased by 1.09 billion euros. The budget of the CRII and CRII+ schemes would be increased by 5.1 billion euros.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

▶ **European Parliament: the InvestEU fund should ensure the necessary investments are made in critical healthcare services**

MEPs in the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs called for a reinforcement of the European investment fund InvestEU. They also emphasised that investments made under this scheme should cover healthcare and the production of essential medicines as well as critical infrastructure.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

▶ **EIB: funding of MMI's robotic system**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has granted maximum funding of 15 million euros to the Italian company MMI, which is working to improve clinical outcomes for patients undergoing microsurgery.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

▶ **EIB: 50 million euros granted to the region of Navarre to strengthen its response to the pandemic**

This funding will be used to strengthen health infrastructure in the region of Navarre and enable it to finance the extraordinary operating expenses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

▶ **EIB: up to 25 million euros granted to Minoryx Therapeutics**

This funding is intended to support the company Minoryx Therapeutics in the development of breakthrough therapies in orphan neurodegenerative diseases, for which there are currently no approved drugs available.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Commission: launch of the 'European Social Innovation and Impact Fund' (ESIIF) in Germany**

This fund, based in Germany and targeting German businesses and investors, has received European funding. Its purpose is to facilitate participation of investors in innovative projects managed by European social enterprises, in sectors such as health, inclusion, education and the environment.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### European Commission: funding for health projects under the Horizon 2020 programme

Under the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Commission will provide 128 million euros in funding to 23 projects aimed, in particular, at strengthening the manufacture and supply of essential medical equipment, developing treatments or diagnostic methods for Covid-19, or better understanding the social consequences of the pandemic. In parallel and following the annual Horizon 2020 call for proposals, 75 health-related research projects will receive 508 million euros in European subsidies. Most of these are research and innovation projects.

DOC 1 [EN](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

### Letter to von der Leyen: a call to strengthen the European research budget

More than 1,200 scientists signed a letter to Ursula von der Leyen. They fear that the drastic cuts to the research budget negotiated by the Member States will have devastating effects on the EU's capacity to meet challenges such as pandemics, quantum technology, artificial medicine and personalised medicine.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

### European Parliament: resolution on the draft general EU budget for 2021

In view of the interinstitutional negotiations with the Council, MEPs voted in favour of a 2021 EU budget of 181.7 billion euros, i.e. 15 billion euros more than in the initial European Commission proposal. This increase called for by MEPs would be used, among other things, to boost the budget of the EU research programme, Horizon 2020.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### European Commission: a million euros support to clinic trials concerning Covid-19

The European Commission, through the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI), is awarding a grant to support the conduct of clinical trials of Raloxifene for patients suffering from Covid-19. This is linked to an application for a new marketing authorisation to repurpose this medicine to treat Covid-19 patients.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

## 8 Court of Justice of the European Union

---

### Judgment: pharmacies authorised to use paid referencing on search engines for on-line sales in another Member State

In case C-649/18, the CJEU found that a Member State of destination of an on-line sales service for medicinal products not subject to a medical prescription may not prohibit pharmacies established in another Member State and selling such products from using paid referencing on search engines and price comparison websites to promote sales of the products.

DOC 1 [EN](#) - [FR](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

### Judgment: refusal to reimburse cross-border healthcare costs for a treatment available in the Member State of affiliation but the method of treatment is against the patient's religious beliefs

In case C-243/19, the Court found that the refusal, by a patient's Member State of affiliation, to grant prior authorisation to reimburse cross-border healthcare costs when effective hospital treatment is available in that State, but the method of treatment is against the patient's religious beliefs, might constitute a difference in treatment indirectly based on religion. At the same time, this refusal may not be contrary to EU law if it is objectively justified by a legitimate aim relating to maintaining treatment capacity or medical competence and is an appropriate and necessary means of achieving that aim.

DOC 1 [EN](#) - [FR](#) - [NL](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**Judgment: a Member State may not refuse to approve amendments to information pertaining to a medicine authorised in another Member State and covered by a parallel import licence**

In its judgment on case C-602/19, the Court finds that European law does not allow a Member State to refuse to approve amendments to the particulars and documents relating to a medicinal product covered by a marketing authorisation in another Member State and by a licence for parallel import, as long as that licence is still valid and there is insufficient evidence of a risk to the effective protection of the life and health of humans.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**Judgment: a patient's urgent needs require flexibility in relation to prior authorisation for reimbursement of cross-border healthcare**

Although the directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare authorises national legislation requiring time for the granting of prior authorisation for provision of cross-border healthcare, the competent body should take account of individual circumstances and a patient's urgent needs, the CJEU found in case C-777/18.

DOC 1 [EN](#) - [FR](#) - [NL](#) PDF | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**Judgment: annulment of the refusal of a marketing authorisation for the medicine Aplidin – plitidepsin**

The European General Court (EGC), in case T-594/18, annulled a European Commission to refuse a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product for human use Aplidin – plitidepsin on the grounds that the EMA's Scientific Advisory Group for Oncology, which originally analysed the application for a marketing authorisation, included a professor whose functions could have led to possible bias.

DOC 1 [FR](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

**Judgment: Trecondi-treosulfan can be classified as an orphan medicinal product**

The European Commission granted a marketing authorisation to a treosulfan-based medicinal product but was of the view that this product no longer met the criteria for classification as an orphan drug. The company Medac Gesellschaft für klinische Spezialpräparate mbH, the sponsor of this medicinal product, challenged this decision. In case T-549/19, the EGC found in favour of Medac and annulled the Commission decision.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**Judgment: an independent expert working for a medical service of a care insurance fund does not necessarily need to be recognised as an institution with a social character**

In case C-657/19, the CJEU found that an independent expert, contracted by the medical service of a care insurance fund to analyse the scope of any claims of its insured persons to benefits from social welfare and social security, may be denied recognition as an institution with a social character, with regard to the common system of value added tax.

DOC [FR/NL](#) HTML

## 9 Infringement Proceedings

---

**European Commission: Slovakia and Germany must comply with EU rules on the recognition of professional qualifications**

The European Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Germany regarding its incorrect transposition of the directive on the recognition of professional qualifications in its legislation regulating a series of sectors, including healthcare. In the case of Slovakia, the Commission has referred the country to the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) for not complying with the EU rules on the recognition of professional qualifications, including with regard to the scope of activities subject to these rules, which apply to, inter alia, doctors, nurses, dentists, midwives and pharmacists.

DOC [EN/FR](#) HTML

**European Commission: the United Kingdom must guarantee full sickness insurance cover to EU citizens**

The European Commission sent a letter of formal notice to the United Kingdom urging it to comply with the Free Movement directive, which states that economically inactive EU citizens should have comprehensive sickness insurance when on UK territory.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**European Commission: Belgium must notify the Commission with information concerning operators of essential health services**

The directive on security of network and information systems requires Member States to provide the Commission with information on the operators of essential services. The Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Belgium, as the country has not yet sent in the information requested on a series of specific sectors, including health.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

## 10 Publications

---

**Articles: the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic for public health in the EU**

This edition of the European Journal of Public Health examines many aspects of the impact of the pandemic on public health, including legislative responses, EU competences in the field of health, and European coordination to stop the spread of the virus.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 3 [EN](#) HTML

**OSE: Can Covid-19 change the European competition law framework in health?**

According to this article, the temporary frameworks enabling European competition law to be applied more flexibly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic offer interesting food for thought as to how competition law could evolve and be used effectively to support national efforts.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**Book: Standardisation of health products in search of legitimacy: rethinking judicial review?**

This book takes a multi-disciplinary approach to analyse the European and global standardisation process, including in the medical devices sector.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**Article: Political steering in the European Commission: a comparison of the energy and health sectors**

This article analyses how the reforms implemented under the Juncker Commission have impacted the policy-making structures in the energy and health sectors. One of the consequences of these reforms has been to curb legislative activity in health policy.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**EJRR: Towards a European Health Union: What role for Member States?**

This article, published in the European Journal of Risk Regulation (EJRR), analyses the potential health competences of the European Union in the light of the European treaties and of the country-specific recommendations on national health policies issued under the European Semester.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **JCMS: Evidence and power in EU governance of health promotion: discursive obstacles to a 'health in all policies' approach**

This article, published in the Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS), explores the relationship between the meaning of what constitutes 'evidence' in the European Commission and the Health in all Policies (HiAP) concept.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **EJRR: More competences than you knew? The web of health competence for European Union action in response to the Covid-19 outbreak**

This article, published in the European Journal of Risk Regulation (EJRR), analyses the range of health measures taken at European level to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly through the emergency instruments.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **Article: Bringing EU citizens together or pulling them apart? The European Health Insurance Card, east-west mobility and the failed promise of European social integration**

According to the authors of this article, the European Health Insurance Card does not fulfil its promise of European social integration, as it increases social inequalities both within and between richer and poorer EU Member States.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **Eurofound: Access to care services – early childhood education and care, healthcare and long-term care**

This report looks at accessibility to three care services in the EU: early childhood education and care, healthcare and long-term care.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **European Parliament Think tank: Coronavirus: the second wave [what think tanks are thinking]**

This briefing note provides links to recent comments, studies and reports from international think tanks on questions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **ECDC: Population-wide testing of SARS-CoV-2: country experiences and potential approaches in the EU/EEA and the United Kingdom**

This ECDC reports sets out factors which need to be considered prior to implementation of any population-wide testing strategy. It emphasises that population-wide testing strategies can complement other public health measures and are more effective when paired with case isolation and contact tracing.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **FRA: survey of the situation of Roma and Travellers in six EU countries**

This report, published by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), presents the findings of a 2019 FRA survey on Roma and Travellers in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. It reveals the many inequalities face by these vulnerable groups, including with regard to healthcare.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

▶ **Concurrences: COVID-19: lessons learned in public procurement. Time for a new normal?**

This article analyses the lessons to be learned, with regard to competition law, from the pandemic situation, which enabled, for example, medical equipment to be treated as 'public goods'. It underlines the need to rethink public procurement systems and to create a 'new normal' for competition rules.

DOC [EN](#) HTML



**Politico: the United States wish to reduce the price of medicines. What consequences for the EU?**

Donald Trump is seeking to have a decree adopted which will reduce the prices of medicines in the United States, at the risk of increasing them in Europe. However, there will not necessarily be an automatic link, given the current political context - in the middle of a Covid-19 second wave.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**EPHA: Covid-19, trade and investment and public health**

This article underlines the importance of protecting healthcare and the supply of essential medical goods in international trade and the EU's free trade agreements.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**Eurohealth: Health system responses to Covid-19**

This special issue of Eurohealth reviews some of the innovative practices implemented by European health systems in response to the pandemic, and outlines policy lessons for the future.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**Article: analysis of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement concerning access to cross-border healthcare and related rights**

This analysis reviews all the cross-border healthcare rights and arrangements covered and no longer covered once Brexit is fully effective.

DOC [EN](#) PDF

**Report: Our failure to prevent known risks. Occupational safety and health in the healthcare sector during the Covid-19 pandemic**

This article and podcast, produced by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), examine working conditions in the healthcare sector during the pandemic, and consider the measures to be applied to protect workers in the sector.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN](#) HTML

**Report: The inclusion of Hazardous Medicinal Products within the scope of the Carcinogens and Mutagens directive**

Some dangerous medicines are essential to treat diseases such as cancer. According to this ETUI report, including these medicines in the scope of the directive on carcinogens and mutagens would make it possible to implement binding legislation to protect workers coming directly or indirectly into contact with these substances.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

## 11 Miscellaneous

---

**Eurobarometer survey: health is not European citizens' top concern during the Covid-19 pandemic**

European citizens' top concern, in the Member States, is the economic situation, followed by health and unemployment.

DOC [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**CEO: inquiry into the practices of pharmaceutical lobbies during the Covid-19 pandemic**

The NGO Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) analysed documents emerging from meetings between the European Commission and the pharmaceutical industry. CEO shows, for example, that some industry representatives have lobbied against European procedures for the joint purchasing of medicines.

DOC [EN](#) HTML

**European Commission: foreign investment screening mechanism becomes fully operational**

This mechanism is designed to protect critical sectors in the EU, including healthcare, and to ensure the EU's independence with regard to the supply and provision of essential goods.

DOC 1 [EN](#) HTML | DOC 2 [EN/FR/NL](#) HTML

**Council of the EU: adoption of conclusions on the role of the EU in strengthening the WHO**

The EU health ministers adopted draft Council conclusions on the EU's role within the WHO. The aim is to coordinate their interventions at the resumption of the 73rd World Health Assembly. The Council underlined the EU's ambition to take on a coordinating role in the process of strengthening the WHO in several areas, including pandemic response.

DOC [EN/NL](#) HTML

**"European Health Care News"**

is an electronic newsletter published by the European Social Observatory (OSE), commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI).

Editors: Rita Baeten and Boris Fronteddu

E-mail: [baeten@ose.be](mailto:baeten@ose.be)

Website: <http://www.ose.be>

To subscribe to the mailing list:

[http://www.ose.be/health\\_newsletter/](http://www.ose.be/health_newsletter/)