



## Overview

# COVID-19 Crisis Management Measures of the European Union

*Last Update: 25/11/2020*

In this document, the Confederation of European Security Services (CoESS) provides an overview of measures introduced by the European Union to support Member States in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, which are relevant to the private security sector. This document will be updated on a bi-monthly basis and covers:

1. [Coordination and guidance for the gradual lifting of COVID-19 measures.](#)
2. [Economic and financial aid.](#)
3. [Temporary measures and guidance in travel and transport.](#)
4. [Other](#)

For a complete overview, please visit the [official website](#) of the European Commission. CoESS is committed to fighting disinformation on the EU's COVID-19 crisis management, and refers to the websites on [European Solidarity in Action](#) and [Fighting Disinformation](#) for fact-based information.

### 1. Coordination and guidance for the gradual lifting of COVID-19 measures

[ECDC Guidance: Options for the use of rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK - 19/11/2020](#)

This document from the European Centre for Disease Control is intended to facilitate further discussions between Member States with the aim of reaching agreement on the criteria to be used for the selection of rapid antigen tests, as well as scenarios and settings during which it is appropriate to use rapid antigen tests. This document is also intended to support clinical validations of rapid antigen tests.

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[Council Report on the State of Play of EU-level coordination in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - 12/11/2020](#)

The German presidency published a report on the state of play of EU coordination in response to



the COVID-19 pandemic, setting out the ongoing work at EU level on different strands:

- testing strategies and the use of rapid antigen tests;
- mutual recognition of tests;
- cross-border contact tracing;
- quarantine regulations;
- development, manufacturing and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccines.

It was discussed as the EU Council meeting on 19/11/2020, where EU leaders focused in particular on mutual recognition of tests, vaccines deployment and a common approach on the lifting of restrictive measures.

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#### [European Commission Communication on Additional COVID-19 Measures - 28/10/2020](#)

The European Commission launches an additional set of actions to help limit the spread of the coronavirus. Concretely, the measures aim to better understand the virus' spread and the effectiveness of the response, ramp up well-targeted testing, bolster contact tracing, improve preparations for vaccination campaigns, and maintain access to essential supplies such as vaccination equipment, while keeping all goods moving in the single market and facilitating safe travel. It also includes guidance on persons exempted from the temporary restriction on non-essential travel after discussions of the issues in IPCR.

This follows the Council Recommendations on a coordinated approach to restrictions of free movement from 13/10/2020, and calls on Member States to better implementation the Recommendation. As next steps, the European Commission will publish soon the following initiatives:

- The development of Testing Guidelines in Aviation by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA);
- Recommendations on COVID-19 related quarantine measures (originally expected on 18 November 2020, but delayed).

CoESS has published a position paper on the Communication.

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### [Lifting of travel restrictions: Council reviews the list of third countries - 22/10/2020](#)

The Council updated the list of countries for which travel restrictions should be lifted. This list will continue to be reviewed regularly and, as the case may be, updated.

Based on the criteria and conditions set out in the recommendation, as from 22 October member states should gradually lift the travel restrictions at the external borders for residents of the following third countries:

- Australia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Rwanda
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Uruguay
- China, subject to confirmation of reciprocity

Travel restrictions should also be gradually lifted for the special administrative regions of China Hong Kong and Macao, subject to confirmation of reciprocity.

The Council recommendation is not a legally binding instrument. The authorities of the Member States remain responsible for implementing the content of the recommendation. They may, in full transparency, lift only progressively travel restrictions towards countries listed.

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### [Council Recommendation on a coordinated approach to the restrictions of free movement - 13/10/2020](#)

This recommendation aims to avoid fragmentation and disruption, and to increase transparency and predictability for citizens and businesses. Every week, member states should provide the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) with the data available on the following criteria:

- number of **newly notified cases** per 100 000 population in the last 14 days
- number of **tests** per 100 000 population carried out in the last week (testing rate)
- percentage of **positive tests** carried out in the last week (test positivity rate)



Based on this data, the ECDC should publish a weekly map, based on a colour-code assessing risk zones, of EU member states, broken down by regions, to support member states in their decision-making.

Member states intending to apply restrictions should inform the affected member state first, prior to entry into force, as well as other member states and the Commission. If possible the information should be given 48 hours in advance.

Member states should also provide the public with clear, comprehensive and timely information on any restrictions and requirements. As a general rule, this information should be published 24 hours before the measures come into effect.

In contrast to the [initial](#) European Commission proposal, the recommendation does not foresee a common approach to measures applied to travellers from high-risk areas. It is only non-binding.

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#### [Lifting of travel restrictions: Council reviews the list of third countries - 07/08/2020](#)

In addition to previous updates, also Morocco has been removed from the initial list from 30/06/2020 of third-countries for which travel restrictions should be gradually lifted. As from 08/08/2020, EU Member States should gradually lift the travel restrictions at the external borders for residents of the following third countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- Georgia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Rwanda
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Uruguay
- China, subject to confirmation of reciprocity

The Council recommendation is not a legally binding instrument. The authorities of the Member States remain responsible for implementing the content of the recommendation. They may, in full transparency, lift only progressively travel restrictions towards countries listed. The list is reviewed



and updated regularly.

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[Travel restrictions: Council reviews the list of countries for which member states should gradually lift travel restrictions at the external border - 30/07/2020](#)

Also Algeria has been removed from the initial list of third-countries for which travel restrictions should be gradually lifted.

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[Council updates the list of countries for which member states should gradually lift travel restrictions at the external borders \(see 30/06/2020\) - 16/07/2020](#)

Serbia and Montenegro have been removed from the previous list.

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[Council Recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction - 30/06/2020](#)

The Council adopted a recommendation on the gradual lifting of the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU. Travel restrictions should be lifted for countries listed in the recommendation, with this list being reviewed and, as the case may be, updated every two weeks. Based on the criteria and conditions set out in the recommendation, as from 1 July Member States should start lifting the travel restrictions at the external borders for residents of the following third countries:

- Algeria
- Australia
- Canada
- Georgia
- Japan
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- Rwanda
- Serbia

- South Korea
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Uruguay
- China, subject to confirmation of reciprocity

Residents of Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican should be considered as EU residents for the purpose of this recommendation.

The Council recommendation is not a legally binding instrument. The authorities of the member states remain responsible for implementing the content of the recommendation. They may, in full transparency, lift only progressively travel restrictions towards countries listed.

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#### [Recommendation on a partial and gradual lifting of travel restrictions to the EU after 30/06/2020 - 11/06/2020](#)

The European Commission recommends to Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to lift internal border controls by 15/06/2020 and to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU until 30/06/2020; and sets out an approach to progressively lifting the restriction afterwards.

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#### [Update of EU Biological Agents Directive 2000/54/EC - 03/06/2020](#)

With [Directive 2020/739](#), the European Commission proposes an update of the [EU Biological Agents Directive 2000/54/EC](#). This update concerns occupational health and safety of workers and their protection against SARS-CoV-2 and categorises SARS-CoV-2 in biological agent risk group 3. As a consequence, Member States would have until 24 November 2020 to make sure employers adhere to the occupational health and safety provisions in [EU Biological Agents Directive 2000/54/EC](#). On 11/06/2020, the European Parliament's EMPL Committee objected a resolution against the proposal. It is therefore expected that the proposal will be formally adopted by the Commission College, together with an additional statement to outline additional safeguards to better protect workers and to strongly encourage Member States to ensure that written instructions are provided to all workers exposed to COVID-19.

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### [“Tourism and Transport in 2020 and beyond” Communication and Guidance Package - 13/05/2020](#)

The European Commission has published a Communication on “[Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond](#)”. It shall set a coordinated framework for a safe and secure recovery of these sectors in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The Communication accompanies a package of documents, including:

- [Guidance to safely restore transport and connectivity](#)
- [Guidance to safely resume tourism services, in particular hospitality](#)
- [Guidance on restoring freedom of movement and lifting of internal border controls](#)

They include a large variety of non-binding recommendations for health and safety principles to be put in place for all transport modes and HORECA. The European Commission calls on competent authorities in Member States that there needs to be genuine cooperation across a set of actors relevant for tourism and transport ecosystems, in particular to implement the guidelines. A number of Member States already [showed already support](#) for the publication on 18/05/2020. CoESS has sent a detailed overview of the documents to members and published a [position paper](#) on 19/05/2020. European Council broadly welcomed the Commission guidelines as a necessary first step for the recovery of the tourism sector and expressed strong support for a number of principles that should govern such recovery, such as rapid financial support, close coordination at EU level, a gradual approach, decisions based on sound epidemiological data and non-discrimination. Ministers encouraged on [20/05/2020](#) the Commission to carry out its plans to create an interactive website, which will make available to the public real-time information on the conditions and measures in place in each member state concerning tourists.

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### [Informal Council Meeting of Ministers of Transport - 30/04/2020](#)

European Commissioner for Transport, Adina Vălean presented a [package](#) of additional measures, adopted by the Commission, to alleviate the impact of the crisis on the transport modes. Notably, one proposal concerns maritime security and lays down temporary measures concerning port facility security assessments, drills and exercises, and port security assessments. The package includes other proposals concerning railway safety and interoperability, rules for the operation of ground-handling services in the aviation sector, flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges, as well as country-specific exceptions. The package is expected to be adopted quickly.



Ministers also agreed on the need of a EU coordinated approach towards reinstating connectivity and mobility and asked for a urgent implementation of sector-specific Guidelines for gradual easing and phasing-out of confinement measures as soon as possible.

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#### [Informal Council Meeting of Ministers of Home Affairs - 28/04/2020](#)

Member States' Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs discussed in an informal videoconference together with the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, a potential gradual easing or removal of restrictions introduced on the borders, agreeing that borders could be gradually reopened, starting from border areas with recorded decrease in COVID-19 cases.

The ministers also examined the current security challenges with regard to criminal activities. Particularly evident is the rise in cybercrime, the sale of counterfeit goods and spread of fake news, as well as continuation of migrant smuggling and drug trafficking.

The European Commission, the European External Action Service, the Presidency and those Member States which are most exposed to migration presented the current situation concerning this area. The pandemic has direct consequences on the manner in which Member States implement rules on asylum and return and it restricts the fulfilment of resettlement pledges. In order to support Member States, the European Commission adopted the Guidance on 16 April (see further below) which illustrates how to ensure continuity of procedures as much as possible while fully ensuring the protection of people's health, given the healthcare measures introduced by Member States.

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#### [Informal Council Meeting of Ministers of Tourism - 27/04/2020](#)

Member States' Ministers of Tourism discussed in an informal videoconference together with the European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, measures taken so far by Member States in order to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector and other related sectors. There was broad support for additional measures and enhanced coordination at EU level. It was stressed that tourism should be amongst the main priorities of the EU's recovery plan, and Ministers highlighted the importance of establishing homogeneous rules for both air and sea or land mobility. In the meeting, Commissioner Breton announced to consider protocols which should guide safe operation of tourism facilities across the EU.

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### [EU guidance for a safe return to the workplace - 24/04/2020](#)

To ensure that workers can return to the workplace in a safe and healthy environment, the European Commission published guidance on the matter which covers several areas such as risk assessment and appropriate measures, communication with workers, and links to national information on specific sectors and occupations. The guidance will be updated regularly with reliable information as the situation evolves.

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### [Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures - 15/04/2020](#)

The joint document of the European Commission and Council sets out recommendations to Member States, with the goal of preserving public health while gradually lifting containment measures, and intends to facilitate EU-level coordination - including on return of economic and work activities, travel and border management, as well as measures for public spaces, events and transport. A detailed overview of recommendations has been sent to CoESS' national associations.

## 2. Economic and financial aid

An overview of national measures taken in each country can be found [here](#).

### [Next Generation EU: Coronavirus Recovery Programme - 27/05/2020](#)

Together with a revised Work Programme for 2020, the European Commission presented a new EU budget proposal for 2021-2027 as well as the European recovery plan at the European Parliament on 27 May. Next Generation EU of €750 billion as well as targeted reinforcements to the long-term EU budget for 2021-2027 will bring the total financial firepower of the EU budget to €1.85 trillion.

There are many different tools included in the recovery plan. A new [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) of €560 billion stands at the centre of the Next Generation EU recovery plan and will offer financial support for investments and reforms, including in relation to the green and digital transitions and the resilience of national economies, linking these to the EU priorities. This facility will be embedded in the European Semester. It will be equipped with a grant facility of up to €310 billion and will be able to make up to €250 billion available in loans. Support will be available to all Member States but concentrated on the most affected and where resilience needs are the greatest. A new [Solvency Support Instrument](#) (addition from 29/05: legal text [here](#)) will mobilise private



resources to urgently support viable European companies in the sectors, regions and countries most affected. It can be operational from 2020 and will have a budget of €31 billion, aiming to unlock €300 billion in solvency support for companies from all economic sectors and prepare them for a cleaner, digital and resilient future.

A simple factsheet on all measures can be found [here](#). The Commission hopes to find an agreement on the package with Member States in July.

As it currently stands, Council and European Parliament are negotiating on the proposal.

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#### [European Semester Spring Package - 20/05/2020](#)

The European Commission published proposals for country-specific recommendations (CSRs) detailing economic policy guidance for Member States. The recommendations, on the one hand, focus on mitigating the short-term economic and social impact of the pandemic, and on the other plan sustainable and inclusive growth to facilitate the green transition and digital transformation. This year the CSRs also tackle challenges Member States face due to the coronavirus pandemic. In order to implement reforms responding to these priorities, Member States will be able to use specific funding to complement national efforts. The recommendations may later be connected to the EU Recovery Fund. Detailed information can be found in the Commission's [Communication](#).

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#### [French-German Initiative for European Economic Recovery - 18/05/2020](#)

Germany and France have published a joint paper that details a host of responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and the strain it put on economies and health systems. The document, which has been published six weeks before Germany takes over the Council Presidency, includes proposals for health reform, the recovery fund, green and digital transitions, and industrial strategy. A Recovery Fund under the next MFF shall be financed through common, European debt allowing the Commission to borrow on markets on behalf of the EU. The €500 billion Recovery Fund should be targeted towards the most affected sectors, targeting the challenges of the pandemic and the aftermath. The European Commission welcomed the proposal and is expected to publish own plans on 27/05/2020.

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#### [European Commission Economic Forecast for Spring 2020 - 06/05/2020](#)

The Spring 2020 Economic Forecast projects that the euro area economy will contract by a roughly 8% in 2020 and grow by 6% in 2021. The EU economy is forecast to contract by 7% in 2020 and grow by around 6% in 2021. The extent of the recession and growth however differs among Member States.

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#### [Banking package to facilitate lending to households and businesses in the EU - 28/04/2020](#)

The Commission adopted a banking package to help facilitate bank lending to households and businesses throughout the EU. The aim of this package is to ensure that banks can continue to lend money to support the economy and help mitigate the significant economic impact of the coronavirus.

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#### [€50 million pilot to develop skills and education - 22/04/2020](#)

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and European Commission are launching a new pilot guarantee facility to improve access to finance for individuals and organisations looking to invest in skills and education. The €50 million pilot scheme will support financing for students and learners, enterprises investing in the upskilling of their employees, and organisations supplying education and training.

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#### [Eurogroup Comprehensive Economic Support Package - 09/04/2020](#)

European Finance Ministers, incl. the Eurogroup, agreed a €540 billion package to support Member States, companies and workers. This includes the €100 billion European Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme (SURE) for the duration of the emergency situation, a pan-European guarantee fund of €25 billion of the European Investment Bank, which could support €200 billion of financing for companies with a focus on SMEs, and a Pandemic Crisis Support of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) as a safeguard for euro area Member States. The latter would be available on the basis of up-front assessments by the European institutions. The only requirement to access the credit line will be that euro area Member States requesting support would commit to use this credit line to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention related costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. Member States will now work on a temporary Recovery Fund and a Roadmap for Recovery to prepare and support economic recovery across Member States.

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[Commission Proposal to further expand State aid Temporary Framework to recapitalisation measures - 09/04/2020](#)

In addition to the measures introduced on 19/03/2020 and 03/04/2020 (see further below), the European Commission proposes to extend further the scope of the Temporary Framework by enabling Member States to provide recapitalisations to companies in need. Since such public interventions may have a significant impact on competition in the Single Market, they should remain measures of last-resort. They will also be subject to clear conditions as regards the State's entry, remuneration and exit from the companies concerned, strict governance provisions and appropriate measures to limit potential distortions of competition.

Member States now have the possibility to comment on the Commission's draft proposal. The Commission aims to have the amended Temporary Framework in place by next week.

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[European Scale Up Action for Risk Capital \(ESCALAR\) - 08/04/2020](#)

ESCALAR will support venture capital and growth financing for promising companies, enabling them to scale up in Europe and help reinforce Europe's economic and technological sovereignty. It will provide up to €300 million aiming to increase the investment capacity of venture capital and private equity funds, triggering investments of up to €1.2 billion to support promising companies.

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[European Investment Fund \(EIF\) Support for SMEs - 06/04/2020](#)

The European Commission unlocked €1 billion, allowing the EIF to issue special guarantees to incentivise banks and other lenders to provide liquidity to at least 100,000 European SMEs and small mid-cap companies hit by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, for an estimated available financing of €8 billion.

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[Commission Decision on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020 - 03/04/2020](#)

The Commission decided to temporarily waive customs duties and VAT on the import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries. The Commission has swiftly approved requests received from all Member States. This measure includes masks and protective equipment,

as well as testing kits, ventilators and other medical equipment. It will apply for a period of 6 months, with a possibility for further extension.

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#### [COVID-19 Second Economic Package and European Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme \(SURE\) - 02/04/2020](#)

The Commission proposes to create SURE, a new EU solidarity instrument to help workers keep their income and help businesses stay afloat and retain staff. SURE will provide financial assistance of up to €100 billion in EU loans and will be an EU-wide scheme to mitigate unemployment risks. The Commission is also proposing to allow European Structural and Investment Funds to be used on the response to the Coronavirus without limits on transfers between funds or between regions, without requirements on co-financing. In an Emergency Support Instrument, the Commission also redirects €3 billion from this year's EU budget to supporting Member States to manage the public health crisis. The European Council agreed to the package on 09/04/2020 and [approved](#) SURE on 19/05/2020. SURE will become available after all member states have provided their guarantees. The instrument will then be operational until 31/12/2022. On the proposal from the Commission, the Council may decide to extend the period of availability of the instrument, each time for a further 6-month period, if the severe economic disturbances caused by the COVID-19 outbreak persist. On [24/08/2020](#), the European Commission has presented proposals to the Council for decisions to grant financial support of €81.4 billion to 15 Member States under the SURE instrument. It was activated on [22/09/2020](#). On [07/10/2020](#), the European Commission announced that it will issue EU SURE social bonds of up to €100 billion and that it has adopted an independently evaluated Social Bond Framework.

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#### [Guidance on applying EU public procurement rules - 01/04/2020](#)

The guidance explains available options and flexibilities under the EU public procurement framework for the rapid purchase of the supplies, [services](#), and works needed to address the crisis.

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#### [Guidance on the protection of Europe's strategic assets - 25/03/2020](#)

The European Commission issued these guidelines to ensure an EU-wide approach to foreign investment screening to preserve EU companies and critical assets, notably in areas such as health,



medical research, biotechnology and infrastructures that are essential for our security and public order, without undermining the EU's general openness to foreign investment.

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#### [Activation of the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact \(SGP\) - 20/03/2020](#)

This activation will allow Member States to undertake measures to deal adequately with the crisis, while departing from the budgetary requirements that would normally apply under the European fiscal framework. European Council approved this measure on 23/03/2020.

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#### [Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak - 19/03/2020](#)

The framework enables Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. It enables Member States to ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available for businesses of all types and to preserve the continuity of economic activity during and after the COVID-19 outbreak - for example through direct grants or tax advantages of up to €800,000 per company, public loans with subsidised interest rates, state guarantees for loans from banks, safeguards for banks, and additional flexibility to enable short-term export credit insurance to be provided by the State. This framework was enlarged in April to enable Member States to accelerate the research, testing and production of Coronavirus relevant products, and to provide targeted support in the form of deferral of tax payments and/or suspensions of social security contributions or in the form of wage subsidies for employees.

A total overview of approved state aid cases per country can be found [here](#).

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#### [COVID-19 Response Investment Initiative - 13/03/2020](#)

The Commission proposes to direct EUR 37 billion under Cohesion policy to the fight against the Coronavirus crisis. As part of this initiative, the Commission is proposing to include public health crises in the emergencies that the EU Solidarity Fund finances. It currently helps Member States go through a range of different natural disasters including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought. This measure will make sure Member States have access to additional support of up to €800 million. European Parliament approved the initiative on 26/03/2020, Council on 30/03/2020.





### 3. Temporary measures and guidance for travel and transport

#### [Council Conclusions on Contingency Plans for the Freight Sector - 23/10/2020](#)

The Council today adopted conclusions **calling on the Commission to swiftly draw up a pandemic and other major crisis contingency plan for the European freight transport sector**. Such a plan should include EU-level coordination measures and clear guidelines.

The contingency plan should cover at least the following aspects:

- maintaining cross-border freight transport operations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) corridors and other essential cross-border connections, as well as related ancillary services supporting the operation of that network
- ensuring free movement of transport workers while safeguarding the protection of their health and safety
- preparing guidelines and best-practice toolboxes in order to strengthen the sector's resilience
- setting up a coherent regulatory framework as regards exemptions to be applied when pandemics and other major crisis situations arise.

The Council encourages the Commission to extend, where appropriate, in part or in full, the contingency plan to passenger transport and transport in general.

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#### [EMSA Report on COVID-19 Impact on Shipping - 14/08/2020](#)

The objective of this EMSA report is to provide figures on the impact of COVID-19 on shipping traffic. It is based on solid vessel movements statistics showing the port call trends without interpreting the statistical data. The report could not serve the purpose of an economic impact analysis since the trade volumes are not available in the EMSA systems. The report focuses mainly on EU ports and EU flagged ships, but there are also statistics about the shipping routes from Europe to China and from Europe to the US and how they have been affected. The report is updated on a weekly basis and is published every Friday.

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#### [EU Guidance for Cruise Ship Operations - 27/07/2020](#)

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has published, together with the European Centre for



Disease Control (ECDC), guidelines for the resumption of cruise ship operations in the COVID-19 situation. This Guidance is divided in three parts:

- Ship side recommendations for the development of a COVID-19 Company and Ship Management Plan, following a tailor-made risk assessment by the company. This includes a recommendation on the provision of adequate training for different personnel, including at security checks.
- Port-side recommendations for the development of a COVID-19 Port Management Plan by each Member State/port/terminal receiving cruise ships, for which a minimum set of measures are also suggested.
- Recommendations for collaboration between shipping companies and the port/terminal receiving the ship.

The guidelines also recommend that shipping companies review the occasions and places where health screening should be carried out, from the pre-boarding area to disembarkation and re-embarkation.

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[Council Conclusions on "Compliance with the necessary hygiene and infection control measures to ensure cross border collective passenger transport" - 24/07/2020](#)

As part of the EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council today adopted a set of conclusions aimed at restoring passengers' and workers' confidence by minimising the risk of infection in cross-border collective passenger transport systems.

In the conclusions, the Council promotes a number of basic hygiene and infection control measures, which should apply to all cross-border collective passenger transport services.

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[Recommendations for safe resumption of railway services in Europe - 21/07/2020](#)

The EU Agency for Railways (ERA), the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) have developed guidelines for a COVID-19 railway protocol. The document provides non-binding advice to safeguard the health and safety of passengers, transport workers and staff for railway undertakings, station managers, infrastructure managers and competent national authorities. Concretely, it includes COVID-19 mitigating measures at stations and on-board trains, recommending, among others:



- Railway stakeholders should develop preparedness plans.
- Training on the adopted measures and appropriate PPE of station, train, and all railway employees is needed.
- Competent national authorities, railway undertakings, station managers, infrastructure managers and other railway stakeholders should coordinate their actions in sufficient detail.
- Implement adequate measures at eventual security checks, embarking and disembarking to help minimise contact.

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#### [Recommendation on a partial and gradual lifting of travel restrictions to the EU after 30/06/2020 - 11/06/2020](#)

The European Commission recommends to Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to lift internal border controls by 15/06/2020 and to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU until 30/06/2020; and sets out an approach to progressively lifting the restriction afterwards.

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#### [Interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of COVID-19 on board ferries after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 24/06/2020](#)

This advice document includes measures for the prevention of transmission and spread of COVID-19 on board ferries. It is addressed to ferry companies, as well as competent public health authorities at ports. The objective of these guidelines is to provide recommendations on preventive measures that ferries should implement to protect passengers, crew members and onshore personnel, as well as to create an environment of trust in the maritime transport of passengers by ferry.

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#### [Informal Council Meeting of Ministers of Transport - 04/06/2020](#)

Ministers welcomed the tourism and transport package presented by the Commission in May, and stressed the need for harmonised health protocols to ensure cross-border services. They called for a coordinated and balanced **recovery strategy for transport**, which will combine the imperative protection of public health with operational and economic recovery. This strategy would need to be made concrete in the coming weeks. Ministers also confirmed the need for global outreach with a view to resolving crew change issues so that both EU and third-country seafarers can safely return

home or embark on new voyages both in EU and non-EU ports.

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[Overviews of the State aid rules and Public Service rules applicable to the aviation and maritime sector during the COVID-19 pandemic - between 19/05/2020 and 26/05/2020](#)

These notes provide guidance on the various support measures Member States may use in line with EU State aid rules and Public Service Obligations rules in the exceptional context of the COVID-19 outbreak to support [aviation](#), [maritime](#) and [land](#) transport operators - including application of public procurement rules.

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[“Tourism and Transport in 2020 and beyond” Communication and Guidance Package - 13/05/2020](#)

The European Commission has published a Communication on [“Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond”](#). It shall set a coordinated framework for a safe and secure recovery of these sectors in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The Communication accompanies a package of documents, including:

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They include a large variety of non-binding recommendations for health and safety principles to be put in place for all transport modes and HORECA. The European Commission calls on competent authorities in Member States that there needs to be genuine cooperation across a set of actors relevant for tourism and transport ecosystems, in particular to implement the guidelines. CoESS has sent a detailed overview of the documents to members.

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[Temporary restriction of non-essential travel to the EU - 08/05/2020](#)

Following its Communications on 16 March and 08 April, the European Commission again invited Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to extend the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for another 30 days, until 15 June.

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### [EASA Recommendation on the Preparation of Aerodromes to Resume Operations - 04/05/2020](#)

The recommendations aim to support the safe operation of aircraft at an aerodrome, and should be considered along with any other instructions related to health and security issues, as well as the provision of ground handling services.

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### [Package of measures to support the transport sector - 30/04/2020](#)

The European Commission presented a [package](#) of additional measures to alleviate the impact of the crisis on the transport modes. Notably, one proposal concerns maritime security and lays down temporary measures concerning port facility security assessments, drills and exercises, and port security assessments. The package includes other proposals concerning railway safety and interoperability, rules for the operation of ground-handling services in the aviation sector, flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges, as well as country-specific exceptions. The European Parliament and European Council adopted the package on 15 and 20 May. It will apply from 04 June. You can find the final text in the EU Official Journal [here](#).

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### [Communication on assessment of state of play of the Communication on non-essential travel - 08/04/2020](#)

The European Commission invites Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to extend the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until 15 May. On 30 March, the Commission also provided [guidance on how to implement the temporary travel restrictions](#), the facilitation of repatriations from across the world, and on dealing with overstays caused by travel restrictions. The travel restriction does not apply to EU citizens, citizens of non-EU Schengen countries and their family members, and long-term non-EU national residents for the purpose of returning home.

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### [Guidelines on protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers, passengers and other persons on board ships - 08/04/2020](#)

The guidelines provide recommendations on health, repatriation and travel arrangements. They also call on Member States to create a network of ports where crew changes can take place without delays.

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### [Guidance on free movement of frontier workers exercising critical occupations - 30/03/2020](#)

A number of EU Member States have reintroduced internal border checks due to the COVID-19 situation. The European Commission has therefore published Guidance to ensure the free movement of "workers exercising critical occupations" and lists Security Guards among these "workers exercising critical occupations" - together with "persons working on critical or otherwise essential infrastructures" and "protective service workers".

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### [Note of DG MOVE: Exceptional measures in transport to deal with COVID-19; Inability to comply with certain provisions of EU legislation - 27/03/2020](#)

Member States have informed the Commission about difficulties to renew certain licenses or certificates for professional carriers, including vehicles and vessels certificates or transport workers, due to public measures that have become necessary in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. The competent national administration may not be in a position to deliver the necessary documents or because the person or entity concerned may be prevented from completing the necessary formalities or procedures. The specific legal requirements (EU or national) liable to be affected by this situation have been published by the European Commission.

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### [Guidance on Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak - 26/03/2020](#)

The European Commission calls on EU Member States to support air cargo operations during the coronavirus crisis and recommends operational and organisational steps to keep essential transport flows moving, including medical supplies and personnel.

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### [European Parliament letter to the Commission calling for Tourism Rescue Action Plan - 24/03/2020](#)

The European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee urges the Commission to come up with a European action plan to help the tourism sector to overcome the crisis. It calls for a recovery plan and extensive funding through a long-term EU budget, more clarity to be provided on travel during the summer season 2020, and better protection of passenger rights. The responsible Commissioners Thierry Breton (Single Market) and Adina Valean (Transport) responded in a [letter](#) on 08/04/2020.

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[Guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available - 16/03/2020](#)

The guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the internal market.

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[Guidance documents related to health and safety during flights for competent authorities, airports, airlines and their crews - since March 2020](#)

The European Commission and EASA have published several guidance documents related to health and safety during flights for competent authorities, airports, airlines and their crews regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. These are non-legally binding recommendations. An ad hoc working group of experts from the [“EU Healthy Gateways joint action”](#) consortium published advice for preparedness and response to the COVID-19 outbreak. [Advice](#) is also available for aircraft operators and staff.

## 4. Other

[Council conclusions on countering the COVID-19 crisis in education and training - 16/06/2020](#)

The Council conclusions acknowledge the main challenges in the education and training systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the immediate responses by the Member States. They invite Member States to examine possibilities for innovation and accelerated digital transformation, and for further development of teachers' and trainers' digital skills and competences.

Taking into account the pandemic's impact on education and training across the EU, the conclusions also invite Member States to continue to share information, experiences and best practices on how education and training systems can best adapt to the situation, depending on further developments related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The conclusions recognise the need to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities as well as access to high quality education and training for all.

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[Guidance on implementing relevant EU rules on asylum and return procedures and on resettlement - 16/04/2020](#)

The Commission has presented this guidance document to Member States. It includes recommendations on health measures that have to be taken to limit social interaction among

asylum personnel and applicants, as well as their impact on communication with personnel and migrants at detention facilities, set-up and procedures at reception and detention facilities, asylum processes, resettlement and return.

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[Recommendation for the use of technology and data to combat and exit from the COVID-19 crisis concerning mobile applications and the use of anonymised mobility data - 08/04/2020](#)

The Commission recommends steps and measures to develop a common EU approach for the use of mobile applications and mobile data in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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[Europol Report on latest developments of COVID-19 on the criminal landscape in the EU - 27/03/2020](#)

The latest EUROPOL's situational report "Pandemic profiteering: how criminals exploit the COVID-19 crisis" analyses the developments in 4 main crime areas: cybercrime, fraud, counterfeit and substandard goods and organised property crime. It is based on information Europol receives from the EU Member States on a 24/7 basis and intends to support Member States' law enforcement authorities in their work.

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[rescEU Stockpile and Joint Procurement Initiative for PPE - 19/03/2020](#)

The European Commission created a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks to help EU countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission will finance 90% of the costs of the stockpiling. In addition, the Commission launched a joint EU procurement initiative for personal protective equipment, which has so far proved to be effective.