

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission:

- On 17 December 2020, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, [announced](#) that the COVID-19 vaccination will start across the EU on 27, 28 and 29 December.
- On 17 December 2020, [the Commission concluded](#) its exploratory talks with Novavax to secure a potential new vaccine which is made up of a Protein subunit and currently in phase three of clinical trials.
- On 14 December 2020, the Commission launched [Re-open EU mobile app](#) with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe.
- On 14 December, the Commission launched a dedicated [website](#) on the COVID-19 vaccine, featuring a video message from CPME President.

Council:

- Today, the Council adopted its [conclusions](#) on lessons learned from the pandemic that cover four areas: improving EU crisis management (underlining the need to further strengthen information exchange on national surveillance measures and within the EU); ensuring the supply of medicinal products (including exploring possibilities of the relocation to the EU of API manufacturing sites for critical medicinal products); improving access to and sharing of health data (calling for collaboration to create a functioning European Health Data Space that will contribute to the cross-border use and re-use of health data); and strengthening the EU's role in global health (highlighting the role of the EU in strengthening the WHO as the leading and coordinating authority on global health).

EMA:

- EMA [announced](#) that the committee in charge of recommending a conditional marketing authorization for the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine will meet on **December 21**, i.e. the official authorization could follow a few days later. The Commission still has to formally decide about the marketing authorization. According to EMA this decision is fast tracked and available "within days." EMA also [informed](#) that it will recommend on the conditional marketing authorization of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine **January 6**.
- EMA held a virtual public meeting to explain the processes for the development, evaluation, approval and safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines in the EU, including EMA's specific role. The meeting also provided an opportunity to the public and stakeholder groups to share their needs, expectations and concerns. Please see the meeting's video recording and presentations [here](#).

ECDC:

- ECDC published updated [maps](#) in support of the Council Recommendation on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Webinars/Other Reports:

- CPME is calling for transparency in the EU vaccines negotiations: Following the EC decision last week, CPME signed a [joint statement on transparency in the EU vaccines negotiations](#). The statement was supported by a total of 39 civil society organisations calling on the European Commission and EU national governments to ensure a maximum degree of transparency in the EU's exchanges, negotiations and deals with pharmaceutical companies over COVID-19 vaccines, proposing a new framework of transparency for future joint procurement negotiations. The statement is a follow-up on our previous [requests](#) from September.