

## **COVID-19 EU update**

### **European Commission:**

- [The Global Monitor of COVID19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights](#): the Commission's DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) and the [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance \(International IDEA\)](#) are mapping the status quo of representative government, fundamental rights, checks on government, impartial administration and participatory engagement in 162 countries including all EU Member States. Using International IDEA's framework for assessing the state of democracy, this tool is intended to highlight governmental breaches and support corrective action. The video of the launch event can be found [here](#) and a press release [here](#).
- The Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) will provide German CureVac with a €75 million loan for development and large-scale production of vaccines, including a vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV-2. Please find more [here](#).

### **European Parliament:**

- MEPs held a [plenary debate](#) with Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides and the Council in preparation of its vote on a [resolution](#) on the EU's public health strategy post-COVID-19. MEPs highlighted the need to draw the right lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, discussing how the EU's role in health policy can be strengthened, mentioning i.a. access to medicines and protective equipment, the standing of the EU's agencies and the concept of a 'European Health Union' with EU minimum standards.

### **WHO/WHO-Europe:**

- On 21 July, WHO will organise a webinar on 'Infodemiology' - the science of managing infodemics - an overabundance of information occurring during an epidemic. COVID-19 has shown that it is difficult for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it. Please find more information and a registration link [here](#).
- The WHO Director-General [announced](#) the initiation of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Reports from other sources/COVID-19 Webinars:**

- EPSU together with the European Disability Forum and the Age Platform Europe formally calls on the European Parliament to launch an [investigation to assess the failures of authorities in addressing and managing the crisis in the long-term care sector](#) during COVID-19.
- [Podcast: Coronavirus exposes health inequalities at heart of city life](#): the Financial Times correspondents in London, Paris and New Delhi discuss how the pandemic has raised awareness for social determinants of health in the urban setting. This is part of a series of interviews with correspondents on '[How to Build a Healthy City](#)'.