

COVID-19 EU update

European Commission

- [Commission signs a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for an additional 1.8 billion doses](#): The European Commission signed a third contract with BioNTech-Pfizer for the purchase 900 million doses of the current vaccine as well as an option to purchase an additional 900 million doses of a vaccine adapted to potential variants by 2023.

European Council

- European Council presented its [conclusions](#) on COVID-19 on May 25th. The Conclusions identify that the pace of vaccinations have been accelerated across the EU and should be sustained and that an improvement in the general epidemiological situation should allow for the gradual reopening of our societies. The European Council calls for the revision on the Council recommendation on travel within the EU by mid-June.

Council of the EU

- On May 21st, COREPER [gave](#) its unanimous support to the political agreement reached with the European Parliament on the 20th of May on the EU digital COVID certificate.

European Parliament

- On May 20th, the Parliament's Committee on Trade [debated](#) on how to increase vaccine production effectively with the WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Dr Okonjo-Iweala argued in favour of expanding vaccine production and ending export restrictions. She said that getting the IP waiver will not be enough and listed three alternative options including reducing export restrictions, reinforcing supply chains for vaccines, and working with manufacturers to expand production, including in emerging countries with idle capacity such as Indonesia, South Africa, Thailand or Bangladesh.

EMA

- EMA [advised](#) healthcare professionals that there is not enough evidence on whether inhaled corticosteroids benefit non-hospitalised people with COVID-19
- EMA published [a new assessment report](#) for its review of reported cases of blood clots with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen and the [updated product information](#) for Vaxzevria in all EU languages.

Other reports/webinars

- Call for support from Indian Medical association: WMA has circulated an [Appeal for COVID Care Donations](#) on behalf of the Indian Medical Association with the aim of collecting sufficient funds to finance 1 million vaccines. All account details and background information on [Areas of Activity of IMA in Alleviation of COVID Crisis in India](#) are provided.