



14 May 2020



European Central Bank (ECB) survey report on the **Access to Finance of Enterprises (SAFE)**: small businesses report challenging outlook for their access to external financing due to COVID-19

https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/ecb_surveys/safe/html/index.en.html

On 8 May, the Commission announced a further adaptation of the **rules on state aid** to provide a framework for recapitalisation and the use of aid instruments for firms in difficulty. The Commission will extend the easing of the rules until the end of 2020. Under the EU's updated regime, support will come “with strings attached,” including a ban on dividends and bonus payments to managers of companies receiving financial support. There are no specific green requirements – only an obligation to report on how taxpayer money is used for the green and digital transitions.

https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/sa_covid19_2nd_amendment_temporary_framework_en.pdf

On 13 May, President von der Leyen presented the outline of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (**MFF**) and the “**Recovery Instrument**” to Parliament's Brussels plenary.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_20_877

On 8 May, the Commission invited EU and Schengen States to extend the **temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU** for another 30 days, until 15 June.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/communication-restriction-non-essential-travel-eu_en

Mobile tracing apps - EC guidelines on cross-border interoperability

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_869

On 13 May, the Commission presented a package of guidelines and recommendations to help Member States gradually **lift travel restrictions** and allow **tourism** businesses to reopen, after months of lockdown, while respecting necessary health precaution

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_854

Aircraft-based **meteorological and hydrological observations** are the hardest hit by the COVID-19 situation. The European Meteorological Services Network ([EUMETNET](https://www.eumetnet.eu)) is coordinating efforts to partly mitigate the loss of aircraft data.

<https://www.eumetnet.eu/working-together-to-minimise-the-impact-of-covid-19/>

EU research and innovation programmes in the fight against coronavirus – note of the European Parliamentary Research Service.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/651906/EPRS_ATA\(2020\)651906_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/651906/EPRS_ATA(2020)651906_EN.pdf)

The **Innovative Medicines Initiative** has selected 8 large-scale research projects, aimed at developing treatments and diagnostics for the coronavirus from a fast-track call for proposals. In addition, it has boosted the IMI funding pot from €45 million to €72 million.

<https://www.imi.europa.eu/news-events/press-releases/imi-announces-covid-projects-boosts-funding-pot-eur-72-million>

EC communication providing guidance to EU countries to help them to **speed up the recognition of health workers' professional qualifications**.

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/coronavirus-commission-helps-eu-countries-speed-recognition-health-workers-professional-0_en



EFCA co-signs the European Business Services Alliance statement on the proposed European roadmap towards lifting coronavirus containment measures. Moreover, EFCA underlines that design development of projects is essential to secure the future pipeline for contractors and construction in the post COVID-19 recovery period.

<https://www.efcanet.org/news/ebsa-statement-lifting-coronavirus-containment-measures>

The **EFCA** Barometer Group will now carry out the **COVID-19 survey** on a monthly basis. Results will show the repercussions of the pandemic and the shock to the EU economy on our industry's employment and business activity and the firms' financial situation.

Preparations for the virtual 4 June 2020 (10:00-12:30) **EFCA** General Assembly Meeting include the compilation of a presentation of the 10 selected participants in the 2020 **Future Leaders** competition.

In times of confined life under COVID-19, EFCA received 24 promising entries from the following countries: Bulgaria (1), Denmark (5), Finland (5), Ireland (2), Norway (5), Poland (2), Serbia (1), Spain (1) and Turkey (2).



FIDIC's Covid-19 webinar series: <https://fidic.org/node/29213>

European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC): Covid-19: Overview on EU and national measures - update 4 (2020-05-06)
<http://www.fiec.eu/en/themes-72/covid-19.aspx>

Architects' Council of Europe (ACE): survey - COVID-19 crisis – Impact and measures
https://www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/ACE_SURVEY_COVID19-8.pdf

Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE): Action Plan to support economic recovery and launch a renovation wave for Europe's buildings
http://bpie.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Press-release_Renovation-Wave-Action-Plan-14042020.pdf

EBRD Regional Economic Prospects report: economies across the EBRD regions may contract on average by 3.5 per cent this year, because of the impact of the coronavirus, with a rebound of 4.8 per cent possible in 2021.
<https://www.ebrd.com/cs/Satellite?c=Content&cid=1395290493496&d=&pagename=EBRD%2FContent%2FDownloadDocument>