



29 October 2020



Two **EFCA** Committees (European External Aid and Internal Market) decided to hold virtual follow-up meetings with shorter time-intervals and restricted agendas to allow more lively interaction.

The **European External Aid Committee** will report cases of cancellation of Technical Assistance tenders to transfer the budget to COVID-19 emergency response and continuing requests for proposal submissions in paper to DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development).

Recently, the Committee raised a series of the industry's concerns and suggestions in writing regarding the August 2020 PRAG (Procedures and Practical Guide), in preparation of a forthcoming meeting with DG DEVCO.

The fourth **EFCA Corona survey** (conducted between 1 and 7 September 2020) concluded that there are signs of stabilisation in the construction industry, with fewer projects lost and a smaller drop in new orders, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The December 2020 issue of **Construction Europe** will carry a dual interview with **EFCA** Board members Jacolien Eijer and Roberto Carpaneto: *'How Engineering Consultants can use the Coronavirus Pandemic to speed up the transition to a more sustainable, innovative and greener deal'*.

Secretary General Jan Van der Putten attended the virtual 26 October 2020 launch event of the new European Parliament Intergroup, 'Sustainable, long-term investments & competitive European industry'.

The Belgian Government has taken new safety measures and **teleworking** is again mandatory where possible. Therefore, the EFCA offices will be closed until further notice.

The staff is working from home, and collaborating remotely with all stakeholders.

The EFCA team is available via email: efca@efca.be



Coronavirus resurgence: Commission steps up [action](#) to reinforce preparedness and response measures across the EU

'**Re-open EU**' [platform](#): all the information about travelling in the EU. The common map published regularly by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control will also be cross-referenced once available.

EU **interoperability gateway** goes live, first contact tracing and warning apps linked to the system

Council [recommendation](#) to coordinate measures affecting **free movement**

Council [position](#) on the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**. The facility is the centrepiece of the Next Generation EU recovery instrument designed to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges posed by the green and digital transitions.

The Council has already approved a total of €87.9 billion in financial support to 17 Member States under the [SURE](#) instrument

EIB approved € 5.1 billion for COVID-19 resilience, clean energy, rail transport and urban development

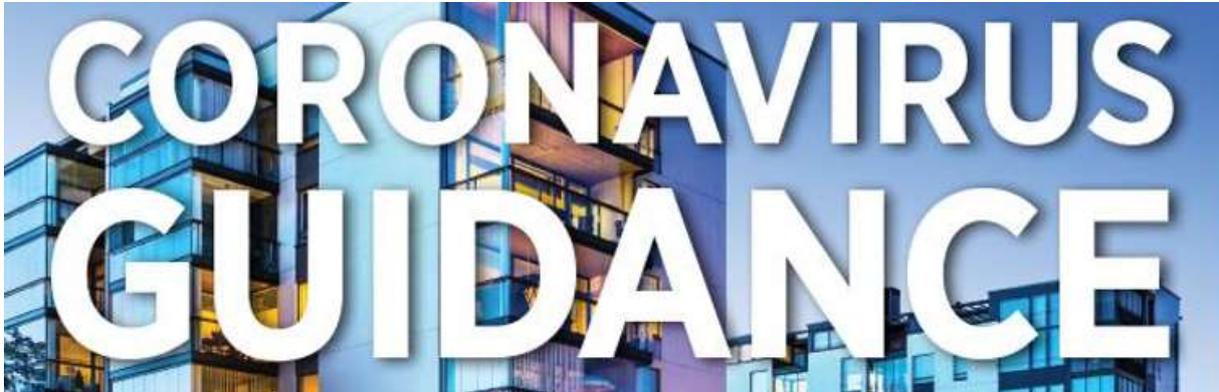
The Commission published a first assessment of the two investment initiatives in response to the coronavirus (CRII and CRII+), which allow Member States to take advantage of an increase in the rate of EU co-financing under [cohesion](#) policy funds.. A web page provides scoreboards showing the use of funds by category and country.

First EU-wide **Regional and Local Barometer** (European Committee of the Regions): Coronavirus pandemic is heavily impacting sub-national authorities' revenues

The Commission listed key steps for effective [vaccination strategies](#) and vaccines deployment

The Commission decided to extend until June 2021 the temporary relaxation of **State aid rules** adopted on 19 March to support the economy during the pandemic. The provisional rules on support for business recapitalisation have been extended until September 2021.

EBRD and FAO approved US\$ 3 million advisory technical cooperation [package](#) to help the agri-food sector in the EBRD's regions to overcome the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic



IMF Fiscal Monitor: *'investment in infrastructure could prepare economies for the transition to the post-Covid-19 world and help create jobs'*

Scotland's Construction Leadership Forum ([CLF](#)) – Plan for the sector's recovery from the impact of coronavirus

Brussels' perspective on the future of Europe after COVID-19 / [The Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Policy Centre](#)

EBRD's Regional Economic Prospects report: Pandemic hits EBRD regions harder than advanced Europe

[Eurofound](#) **Living, working and COVID-19 survey**: 40% of work during COVID-19 crisis has been done from home

What Workers Want - **The impact of COVID-19 on the labour market**
<https://www.hays.be/en/what-workers-want>

Europe's **technology industries** hit harder by Covid-19 than the 2008 financial crisis/[Orgalim](#)

COVID-19 and European small and medium-size enterprises: How they are weathering the storm/[McKinsey](#)