
*Actions taken at the EU level*

**UfMS Webinar**

27 May 2020
COVID-19 response by the EU

• **Relief measures**: immediate support for the economic operators (March – May 2020)
  
  ✓ To maintain the flow of freight, preserve the supply chains, protect crews and relieve current financial pressures on economic operators (solvency issues);

• **Recovery measures**: medium and long term aid
  
  ✓ to address economic recovery and ensure the sustainable development of the EU industry over the years to come.
Horizontal measures

• **Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative** (CRII and CRII+) to flexibly use the EU Structural Funds cash reserves in responding to the emerging needs of the stakeholders (frontloading of €37 billion, not yet allocated);

• **Temporary Framework for State Aid** to enable Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules: direct grants, selective tax advantages, advance payments, state guarantees, public loans etc.;

• Activation of the general escape clause under the **Stability and Growth Pact**: departing from the budgetary requirements that would normally apply under the European fiscal framework;

• New instrument for temporary **Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency** (SURE) supporting Member States in alleviating the employment impact for individuals;
Horizontal measures

• Dedicated programmes launched by the European Central Bank, European Investment Bank Group and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,

• Variety of expenditure and tax related actions undertaken by the Member States;

• Connecting Europe Facility: using the maximum flexibility to prevent from penalising beneficiaries due to delays caused directly or indirectly by the pandemic;

• Availability of relevant financing programmes under the CEF framework, EFSI and EIB own risk financing (e.g. CEF grants, CEF TBF, GSGP, FM, NER 300 etc.)
Transport/maritime specific measures

- Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services;

- Communication from the Commission on the implementation of the Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services;

- Guidelines on protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers;

- Proposal for the amendment to the Ports Services Regulation (EU)2017/352, to give to Member States and port authorities additional flexibility to waive, reduce, suspend or defer port infrastructure charges due for the period from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.
Transport/maritime specific measures

• Interpretative guidelines concerning passenger rights on how certain provisions of the EU passenger rights legislation should be applied in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak;

• Proposal for a Regulation laying down specific and temporary measures in view of COVID-19 outbreak and concerning the validity of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in certain areas of transport legislation;

• A network of national transport contact points to reinforce cooperation and coordination on the issues related to transport, and set up a website (https://ec.europa.eu/transport/coronavirus-response_en), which provides an overview of national transport measures by country.
Tourism and Transport Package, to gradually lift travel restrictions on 13 May, with guidelines of general principles for the gradual resumption of passenger transport and detailed recommendations for measures in the maritime sector:

- An overall strategy towards recovery in 2020 and beyond;
- A common approach to restoring free movement and lifting restrictions at EU internal borders in a gradual and coordinated way;
- A framework to support the gradual re-establishment of transport whilst ensuring the safety of passengers and personnel;
- A recommendation which aims to make travel vouchers an attractive alternative to cash reimbursement for consumers;
- Criteria for restoring tourism activities safely and gradually and for developing health protocols for hospitality establishments such as hotels.
Recovery package

• 13 May: President von der Leyen speech at the European Parliament Plenary;
• The planned recovery instrument: under the MFF 2021 – 2027;
• Priorities: the European Green Deal, digitalization and resilience;
• The recovery funds to be channelled through EU programmes;
• Possible pillars:
  ✓ supporting Member States to recover, repair and come out stronger from the crisis.
  ✓ kick-starting the economy and helping private investment to get moving again
  ✓ learning the most immediate lessons of the crisis
Other relevant initiatives

- A new **Fuel EU Maritime initiative** to support the uptake of alternative fuels for maritime, to accelerate the use of electrification of short distance shipping and to pave the way for decarbonisation of marine fuels.

- **Sustainable Finance strategy and the Taxonomy Regulation** as a possible support to the transition towards a sustainable recovery and a basis to assess the environmental sustainability of economic activities and investments.
Thank you

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