

NEW EU MEASURES TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMY

The Commission has stepped up its coordinating role in the fight against Covid-19. A new set of measures and recommendations have been put in place for a common course of action in public health, transport, border control, internal markets and trade.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

- * A strategic [rescEU stockpile](#) of medical equipment - such as ventilators and protective masks - is created with the EU financing 90% of the costs (initial budget of €50 million). The stockpile will be procured by the host Member State(s) and distributed where it is needed most by the [Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#).
- * The [Joint Procurement Agreement](#) can be used by Member States to negotiate with the industry on availability and price of medical products when purchasing personal protective equipment, respiratory ventilators and items necessary for coronavirus testing.

These measures are in addition to [existing ones on potential medicine shortage in EU](#).

GUIDELINES

- * An [Advisory Panel on Covid-19](#) composed of epidemiologists and virologists from Member States will advise on evidence-based strategies & risk management measures.
- * [Guidelines to national governments on mobility](#) (border measures and EU passenger rights) have been issued in context of the developing situation with Covid-19.

INVESTMENT

- * [€140 million](#) are allocated to vaccines, diagnosis & treatment.
- * The “[Corona Response Investment Initiative](#)” is launched mobilising up to €37 billion to support national health care systems and small businesses.
- * The [Temporary Framework](#) is adopted enabling Member States to use State aid rules to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- * A [Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme](#) with an envelope of €750 billion and other measures are set up by the [European Central Bank](#) until the end of 2020.

POLICIES

- * The [ARGUS](#) crisis coordination mechanism has been activated with regular meetings of the Crisis Coordination Committee to synergise the action of EU services and agencies.