

# WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

*The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay*



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## GLOBAL HEALTH

**4TH COVID WAVE HIGHLY  
LIKELY IN AUSTRIA**

**REFRESHMENT OF  
VACCINATION AFTER 6  
MONTHS**

**SINOVAC AND SINOPHARM  
TO DONATE TO COVAX**

## EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**PESCO PROGRESS REPORT  
SHOWS MAJOR DELAYS**

**PRESENTATION OF DIGITAL  
TAX PROPOSAL POSTPONED**

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN  
BULGARIA**

**COUNTRY FOCUS: MOLDOVA**

# GLOBAL HEALTH

The Austrian Covid consortium announced that it would be highly likely that there will be a fourth wave of cases due to the Delta variant of the virus. The time and extent of it are not yet clear but the experts recommend reintroducing some restrictions to control the outbreak.

According to recent data from Israel, the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine is less effective after six months of being injected. It is likely that a refresh is necessary after six to twelve months to achieve a high level of protection. The vaccine manufacturer plans on handing in promising research data on a third vaccine to the US Federal Drug Agency and the European Medicine Agency for approval within the upcoming weeks.

The two biggest Chinese vaccine manufacturers are to donate 550 million doses to the COVAX initiative. Until October Sinovac and Sinopharm will deliver the first 110 million doses, the rest will follow until mid-2022. The initiative aims to provide affordable vaccines to low and middle-income countries or even donate doses to those that can not afford any.



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# COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 647,658

Confirmed recoveries: 639,035

Deaths: 10,724

Hospitalized: 111

In Intensive Care: 39

New Infections This Week: 250

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 13,477,766

Total Vaccinations: 8,650,035\*

\*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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# EUROPE IN THE WORLD

A recent report on the progress of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) program shows that the initiative lacks advancement and outcomes worth mentioning. PESCO was launched in 2018 as part of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, a significant number of projects are behind schedule.

The European Commission will postpone the presentation of a digital tax proposal, as it will prioritize finalising a global tax accord first. The digital tax proposal will be reassessed in the fall, with it planning taxation of 0.3 percent on the goods and services sold online by big tech companies.

After the national election last Sunday in Bulgaria there is only a very thin majority for the “There is Such a People” (ITN) party final counting revealed. The anti-establishment ITN received 23.9 percent of the votes and the GERB party of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov won 23.7 percent. The head of the ITN, Slavi Trifonov, announced he would not join a coalition and instead proposed a minority government.



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# COUNTRY FOCUS

## MOLDOVA

On July 11th parliamentary elections took place in Moldova, leaving the center-right Party of Action and Solidarity with a clear majority of seats. The party is inclined to a program based on economic development, anti-corruption and European integration. Moldova is not a Member State but part of the Union's Eastern Partnership initiative.

Moldova hosts a geopolitical hotspot with the region Transnistria in the country's east. This territory is led by a local government without international recognition. It emerged after the end of the Soviet Union and even though there is no violent conflict between Transnistria and Moldova there are geopolitical concerns.

Russia has a significant military presence in the region which is a security risk for Ukraine at its western border and the unsolved situation prevents Moldova to take further steps towards an application for EU membership. Thus, Moldova and Ukraine are likely to increase cooperation on this matter.



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