

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



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GLOBAL HEALTH

**NEW COVID CASES IN
TOKYO**

**DELTA VARIANT
DOMINATES IN CZECH
REPUBLIC**

**NO LIFT OF RESTRICTIONS
IN AUSTRIA**

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**LAW AND JUSTICE PARTY
TO LEAVE ECR GROUP**

**LEGAL STEPS AGAINST
RUSSIA**

**EU CONDEMNS CYBER
ATTACKS BY CHINA**

COUNTRY FOCUS: GEORGIA

GLOBAL HEALTH

Before the start of the Olympic Games in Tokyo this Friday, there have been nine new Covid cases registered. Currently, there are 67 people who tested positive for the virus, according to the organisers. Among them are athletes from various countries, some of whom already stayed in the Olympic Village.

The Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus is responsible for the vast majority of new cases in the Czech Republic. The federal health agency reported that around 70 to 80 percent of cases can be traced back to it. Due to these developments, Prime Minister Andrej Babis reminded the population to follow the official measurements to prevent a further spread of the virus.

Against the backdrop of an increase in new cases in Austria, the government decided to impose stricter rules on visits to nightclubs. Now only fully vaccinated people or those with a negative PCR-test are allowed entry. Also the registration in restaurants, bars and others will not yet be lifted.



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COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 654,314

Confirmed recoveries: 639,831

Deaths: 10,729

Hospitalized: 124

In Intensive Care: 39

New Infections This Week: 337

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 13,883,890

Total Vaccinations: 9,070,133*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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EUROPE IN THE WORLD

According to news reports, it is likely that the Polish Law and Justice party will pull out of the European Conservatives and Reformists group in the European Parliament. The main reason for this decision is the strong presence of the Italian delegation and disagreement with the leadership style of the group.

The European Union has initiated legal steps against Russia at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Russia is accused of preventing EU-based companies from selling goods to state-owned companies through its protective measurements. This kind of discrimination against foreign enterprises goes against WTO rules, the European Commission stated.

The European Union supported a joint initiative by the United States, accusing China of a massive cyberattack on Microsoft email servers. The statement was supported by other US allies and sharply denied by China which called the allegations “groundless and irresponsible”.



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COUNTRY FOCUS

GEORGIA

On Monday, July 19th, Georgia hosted a multilateral summit for the presidents of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia itself. The outcome was a declaration in acknowledgment of a European membership perspective for the three countries. They jointly stated their commitment to a European future together with Charles Michel.

Since 2009 Georgia has participated in the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative and is granted access to some sectors of the single market. However, Russia has supported frozen military conflicts within the country to prevent Georgia from moving closer to the EU. The country faces additional challenges on its way to EU membership.

Recently, Georgia experienced massive protests, after the violent death of a TV cameraman during a protest against an LGBTQ Pride march. Georgian Prime Minister Garbashvili described the march as “unacceptable for a large segment of Georgian society”.



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