

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



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GLOBAL HEALTH

**PROTESTS ACROSS EUROPE
AND AUSTRALIA**

**FIRST VACCINES ARRIVE IN
TANZANIA**

**AUSTRIAN HEALTH
MINISTER UTTERS
CONCERNS**

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**EU MINISTERS PREPARE FOR
COP 26**

**AUSTRIA REJECTS TURKEY'S
REQUEST TO JOIN PESCO**

**EU CALLED UPON LEBANON
TO FORM STABLE
GOVERNMENT**

COUNTRY FOCUS: POLAND

COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 656,949

Confirmed recoveries: 641,541

Deaths: 10,737

Hospitalized: 121

In Intensive Care: 40

New Infections This Week: 294

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 14,320,079

Total Vaccinations: 9,443,572*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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GLOBAL HEALTH

During the previous weekend, France, Greece, Italy and Australia experienced broad protests against Covid restrictions. In Italy, thousands of people went to the street to demonstrate against new legislation that introduces a mandatory health certificate. Similar scenes were seen in Australia where people attacked the police with bottles and other items.

For the first time ever, vaccinations were delivered to Tanzania. The manufacturer Johnson & Johnson delivered one million doses of its vaccine, marking the launch of the vaccination campaign in the country. Tanzania was among the few countries that did not yet start vaccinating its population, as former President John Magufuli was opposed to the procedure.

The Austrian Health Minister, Wolfgang Mückstein, demanded compulsory vaccinations for health care workers in hospitals and other care facilities, during an interview. Mückstein further predicted the fourth wave of Covid cases in Austria and stressed the necessity of a high vaccination rate within the population. So far around 50 percent of the population are fully vaccinated in Austria.



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EUROPE IN THE WORLD

Last week the EU environment ministers gathered for an informal meeting in Brdo pri Kranju to discuss preparations for COP 26 which will be held in November in Glasgow. The EU wants to obtain a leading role in achieving progress on the four objectives of the conference: mitigation, adaptation, finance and cooperation on climate actions.

The Austrian government has rejected a formal application of Turkey to participate in the Permanent Structured Cooperation Framework (PESCO). According to Defence Minister Klaudia Tanner, Turkey does not fulfil the admission requirements to join the security and defence initiative.

The EU called upon Lebanon to form a stable and accountable government, following the nomination of Najib Mikati to be designated as Prime Minister. After his two predecessors failed to form a cabinet, Mikati can now rely on a stable majority in parliament. This would mark the end of a one-year political deadlock which worsened the political and social crises of the country.



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COUNTRY FOCUS

POLAND

The European Commission gave Poland a deadline for mid-August for it to implement the recent order of the EU Court of Justice. Poland is urged to end disciplinary measures against judges in the country as it defies the EU's treaties, otherwise financial penalties will be imposed.

Furthermore, Poland refuses to renew a license of a US-owned broadcaster, as the ruling Law and Justice party has proposed a new bill that would give licenses only to broadcasters that are mainly owned by an EEA country. Critics call this bill an attempt to cut down media freedom as Poland already dropped to 64th position in the World Press Freedom Index.

Poland experiences increasingly oppressive developments under the leadership of the Law and Justice party which manifests in erosion of democratic structures as well as division of power and the repressive treatment of minorities in the country.



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