

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



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GLOBAL HEALTH

**GERMANY PLANS BOOSTER
JABS STARTING SEPTEMBER**

**US DEMOCRATS REQUESTED
EXTENSION OF
MORATORIUM**

**RISE IN COVID CASES IN
TOKYO**

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**400 PEOPLE SAVED IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

**COMMISSION STOPPED
LEGAL STEPS ON NORTH
IRELAND PROTOCOL**

**SEVERE WILDFIRES ACROSS
EUROPE**

COUNTRY FOCUS: AFGHANISTAN

COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 660,262

Confirmed recoveries: 644,038

Deaths: 10,742

Hospitalized: 130

In Intensive Care: 33

New Infections This Week: 382

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

Total Vaccinations: 9,747,727*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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GLOBAL HEALTH

Starting in September, German Health Minister Jens Spahn plans on offering booster jabs against Covid-19 for vulnerable people. Additionally, he wants to improve and expand the availability of vaccinations for adolescents and children. So far, 62 percent of German adults have received at least one shot and 52 percent are fully vaccinated.

The US Democrats called upon President Joe Biden to extend the moratorium to prevent evictions during the pandemic. Around 3.6 million tenants are in jeopardy of being forced out of their homes. The House of Representatives published a statement requesting an extension of the moratorium until mid-October and called this a “moral imperative”.

The number of Covid cases related to the Olympic Games in Tokyo rapidly increased. For the fifth day in a row, there have been more than 3,000 cases in the Olympic Village. Last Saturday reportedly marked a peak with 4,058 cases. The Governors of Tokyo appealed to the government to assess the possibility of stricter measurements like a lockdown which have not yet been imposed.



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EUROPE IN THE WORLD

Three NGOs rescued more than 400 people who were trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. SOS Méditerranée, Sea-Watch and ResQship picked up migrants who were in overcrowded and sinking wooden boats. According to the International Organization for Migration, at least 1,146 people died this year while trying to cross the Mediterranean.

According to news reports, the European Commission stopped further legal steps against the United Kingdom over the implementation of the Northern Ireland protocol. The protocol aims to govern the customs at the borders of Ireland, the UK and the European Union. The agreement needs revision in order to protect the Northern Ireland peace deal while protecting the EU border.

Italy asked the EU to send additional firefighter planes in order to combat the ongoing wildfires in the country. It was only last week when Rome called for the same support, to extinguish the fires on Sardinia. Turkey and Greece are likewise experiencing severe wildfires across the country and also asked the EU for help.



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COUNTRY FOCUS

AFGHANISTAN

After the withdrawal of the US-American troops in Afghanistan the situation in the country worsened rapidly and destabilised the country significantly. Last week, the Taliban and government soldiers went into violent conflicts in two provincial capitals, resulting in a destroyed hospital and killed civilians.

This year marks the end of a twenty-year-long military intervention in Afghanistan. In 2001 the United States invaded the country and drove the Taliban from power, to consequently weaken al-Qaeda and international terrorism. There was strong opposition to the NATO military operation in Afghanistan.

Austrian and German troops already left the country, the US is going to follow by the end of August. The Afghan President Ashraf Ghani alleged the US of being responsible for the current situation, as the withdrawal came rather sudden and left a security vacuum that can not be filled by local forces. Offering the Taliban suitable conditions for a revitalisation.



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