

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



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GLOBAL HEALTH

**INTERPOL DISCOVERED
GLOBAL FRAUD**

**PROTESTS AGAINST
THAILAND'S PRIME
MINISTER**

**WHO REQUESTS CHINA TO
DISCLOSE DATA**

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**EUROPEAN FORUM
ALPBACH**

**SERBIA AND COMMISSION
DISCUSS CLIMATE
PRESERVATION**

**NGOS WANT EU TO LEAVE
ENERGY CHARTER TREATY**

COUNTRY FOCUS: AFGHANISTAN

COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 670,372

Confirmed recoveries: 650,408

Deaths: 10,757

Hospitalized: 270

In Intensive Care: 61

New Infections This Week: 737

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 15,591,581

Total Vaccinations: 10,188,082*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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GLOBAL HEALTH

The international police organisation Interpol uttered a warning regarding global fraud with fake vaccine sales and offerings. According to Interpol, there have been more than 60 cases across 40 countries where public health officials were contacted via their professional and private email addresses as well as on their phones. The perpetrators claim to represent a vaccine manufacturer or a governmental organisation responsible for distributing the vaccine doses.

Last weekend, thousands of people went to the streets in Thailand to protest against the crisis management of the government and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. The situation escalated quickly and the police came to use water guns which were answered by the protesters with fireworks. Thailand experiences a high number of Covid cases since the outbreak and vaccination campaigns show slow progress so far.

The WHO requested China to disclose their data on the origin and initial Covid outbreak in Wuhan to investigate the cause and origin of the virus. The WHO appealed to all Member States to provide their raw data which the Chinese authorities withhold. The investigation also aims at determining if the outbreak was caused by an incident in a laboratory, the first report on this matter did not come to a clear conclusion.



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EUROPE IN THE WORLD

This week the European Forum Alpbach, Austria will start a two-week program bringing together a variety of stakeholders from four different fields; health, economy, technology and politics. The events will take place in a hybrid format with analog and digital talks, seminars and discussions related to climate, financing and security issues related to the European Union.

Serbia engaged in bilateral talks with the European Commission on the importance of the environment and climate preservation, EU Enlargement Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi said. Here the focus is on capacity building, investments in environmental infrastructure and civil society action to bring Serbia in line with EU legislation and standards.

In the course of the Slovenian EU presidency, the country's NGOs have urged infrastructure minister Vrtovec to have the Union leave the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) before the COP26 meeting in November. The ECT enables fossil fuel and energy corporations to sue countries for huge sums over their climate policies.



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COUNTRY FOCUS

AFGHANISTAN

On Tuesday the EU foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on the situation in Afghanistan to discuss a European strategy and further steps. European nations and the EU executive in Brussels are currently trying to evacuate their foreign and Afghan staff after the Taliban's takeover. The pace of the overthrow was underestimated by most authorities, having the Afghan army surrender without combat and president Ashraf Ghani give in.

After the withdrawal of the last remaining US-American troops, which marked the end of a twenty-year-long military intervention in Afghanistan, the extremist Taliban took over the country within a matter of days.

The coup destabilizes not only the country but the whole region with severe consequences for international security. An increase in migration movements is expected as many Afghan people tried and are trying to leave the country and flee from an oppressive Taliban regime. The ideology of the Taliban is shaped by radical and extremist views with a strict rejection of any Western influences while oppressing women and minorities.



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