

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

The latest news summarized by Pia Zekay



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GLOBAL HEALTH

**START OF PARALYMPICS
UNDER COVID
RESTRICTIONS**

**STRICTER COVID RULES IN
VIENNA**

**BOOSTER-SHOTS
PROGRESS IN ISRAEL**

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**MEETING OF EU HOME
AFFAIRS MINISTERS ON
AFGHANISTAN**

**EUROZONE ECONOMY
GROWS**

CRIMEA PLATFORM SUMMIT

COUNTRY FOCUS: AFGHANISTAN

COVID IN NUMBERS AUSTRIA

Confirmed infected: 678,605

Confirmed recoveries: 655,187

Deaths: 10,768

Hospitalized: 398

In Intensive Care: 84

New Infections This Week: 941

Total Number of PCR Tests Administered: 16,035,471

Total Vaccinations: 10,337,543*

*Vaccinations recorded in the e-vaccination card



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GLOBAL HEALTH

On Tuesday 24th of August, the Paralympics started in Tokyo, again under very strict restrictions. There are no fans or live audiences allowed in the sports facilities, except for a few selected groups of school children who will visit the competitions for educational purposes. About 4,400 athletes from more than 60 countries will compete in the games until the 5th of September.

The city of Vienna will impose stricter Covid rules to address the significant rise in cases right now. Major Michael Ludwig stated that the pandemic is not yet over and appealed to everyone to get vaccinated to prevent another wave in autumn. From September on PCR-tests will be valid for no longer than 48 hours for adults and teenagers, antigen-tests will expire after 24 hours.

One month after Israel has started its booster-shots campaign leading to a notable fall in Covid cases among those over 60 years old. The incidence in this age group fell below one and according to the health ministry, more than one million elderly people have received their third jab so far.



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EUROPE IN THE WORLD

On Monday a spokesperson for the Slovenian EU presidency announced that it will initiate talks on what consequences the situation in Afghanistan will have in terms of security and migration this week. Slovenia also plans on an extraordinary meeting of the home affairs ministers to discuss the situation and further steps.

According to a recent study, Eurozone businesses grew strongly in August. Without ongoing supply chain disruptions, economic activities could have expanded even more. The two main risks for further economic growth are that the recovery might slow down faster and secondly that several shortages might lead to negative second-round effects.

The Crimea Platform summit in Kyiv discussed the issue of the annexed Ukrainian peninsula. The European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia seven years ago, however, the situation has not changed despite having the measurements still in place. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy criticized the lack of international attention to the situation and asked the EU to increase efforts on this matter.



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COUNTRY FOCUS

AFGHANISTAN

US President Joe Biden has stated that he will stick to the deadline of August 31st to withdraw the remaining US combat troops from Afghanistan. This decision was harshly criticized from different sides due to the current situation in the country and the ongoing evacuations of international and local staff.

This decision was made during a virtual meeting of the G7 countries where the possibility of a humanitarian airport to support the local population in Afghanistan. German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed that the western allies will continue to evacuate people as long as possible.

Meanwhile, Facebook announced that it will still ban the Taliban from its social media platform as it prioritizes banning accounts linked to terrorist organisations. However, Twitter is still tolerating the group's account for the purpose of providing access to information.



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