



Ressort: Politik

Europe between COVID-19 vaccines and lockdowns

Rome, 12.04.2021 [ENA]

European Parliament Plenary agreed on 25 March 2021 to deal with the legislative proposals on the Digital Green Certificate under the Parliament's urgent procedure (Rule 163), which allows for faster parliamentary scrutiny of Commission's proposals, while fully respecting the Parliament's democratic prerogatives. MEPs are expected to adopt their mandate for negotiations with the Council.

On 24 March 2021, as an immediate action under the HERA Incubator, the new European bio-defence preparedness plan against COVID-19 variants, the Commission was introducing a measure to speed up the authorisation of adapted COVID-19 vaccines. It made provisions in the relevant EU legislation to allow companies to focus on gathering the necessary evidence in time and enable the authorisation of adapted vaccines with a smaller set of additional data submitted to the European Medicines Agency. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: "The HERA Incubator is to strengthen and accelerate the EU response to variants. We are enabling EMA to fast-track regulatory approval of updated vaccines to tackle new variants".

Taking action now is important as new variants continue to emerge and challenges with scaling up vaccine production are arising. The HERA Incubator will also serve as a blueprint for the EU's long-term preparedness for health emergencies in the next plenary session (26-29 April).

On the other side today in Rome 'IoApro' (IOpen) anti-lockdown protesters threw firecrackers and objects at police. The demonstrators, some wearing handcuffs and many with their hands raised, wanted to head towards the Parliament building.

They were met by police in riot gear. The IoApro protest has been organised mainly by restaurateurs and bar and gym owners irritated because long COVID-linked closures. "Reopenings now!" and "Freedom!", the protesters shouted.

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